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## DIT News, 1st.-31st. of March, 2008

DIT:Students Union

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## RAG WEEK

DIT RAG heroes to the rescue for DEBRA Ireland

Pages 12 & 13



## SPORT

DIT football heroes' Sigerson success

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MARCH 2008

# DIT NEWS

In association with News Soc

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Hit show *Skins* inspires our latest shoot of edgy urban streetwear



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WINGING IT: Ten beautiful butterflies turned out in Temple Bar to the amazement of tourists for the launch of RAG Week '08 in aid of DEBRA Ireland. Photo: William Walsh

# ROCK THE VOTE

Polling has begun, but who will be the next SU President? We grill the candidates to sort the real issues from the empty promises

By Eric Fitzgerald

So the SU elections have come around again, but do you really know who you're voting for? We looked at the eight manifestos, each promising the world, and quizzed the candidates on the reality of how they plan to deliver.

Are there any genuine runners this year? Is it all a lot of hot air? And what exactly can we expect from the incoming trio of potential SU power? Read on to find out how the hopefuls stood up to some DIT News questioning.

Rebecca O'Neill promises to help fill all students' union positions, like class reps and governing councillors, if elected.

Q: How do you propose to tackle student apathy, which is arguably the cause behind the low percentage of student union posts being filled?

A: "Sabbaticals need to be out and about amongst the students. We live in the age of the paperless office, so there's no reason why a president can't be in the lunch area of a site working away while talking to the

students."

Martin Dunne pledges to make extended library opening hours permanent across all sites.

Q: Why pick out Mountjoy Square for special treatment re library opening hours?

A: "It's an equality issue. During the Christmas campaign for extended hours, Mountjoy Square put in a lot of effort, but were overlooked by DIT in the end. They received no extended hours."

Alastair Graham wants to be a vis-

ible president whom students can easily recognise if elected.

Q: How do you propose to strike a balance between visibility and getting the work done?

A: "It's actually a very easy balance to strike. The president has a large number of backroom staff which can be present at meetings, so that allows time for them to be around the campuses talking to students."

Tracey Flinter has a bone to pick with the libraries if she's elected to

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PLUS: US PRIMARIES - WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

★ Page 8



## ☆☆☆Have a good Paddy's Day! ☆☆☆

Welcome to the first DIT News of 2008! It's been quite an eventful start to the year. Welfare Week, SHAG Week and the SU election hustings have kept us very busy. I think it's fair to say that the SU pulled off a rocking RAG

Week this year, well done to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen and I hope lots of money was raised for DEBRA Ireland. Check out our RAG in pictures round-up on pages 12 and 13. And don't miss our election special on pages 4 and 5 where we look at the options for polling day.

Looking forward to March and April, the DIT Drama Festival kicked off on Monday and runs until March 15th in the Black Box theatre in Aungier St. Sticking with drama, DIT are hosting the ISDA festival this year, definitely one to look out for!

The DIT Toyota Fashion Show is on April 9th and promises to be a great night. All this and a lot more to look forward to.

As usual, a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the paper, and Happy Paddy's Day from us all!



The DIT News team getting into the Paddy's Day spirit a little early. Clockwise from front left: Finbarr O'Sullivan, Heather Thompson, Marese Deeley, Sascha Morrissey, Rachael Ryan, Luc O Cinnseala, Katie Teehan, Aisling O'Sullivan, Julie Kavanagh and Orna Cunningham and William Walsh behind the camera

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## What's hot:

- SHINE - used to be student un-friendly Cornerstone, now welcomes now the closest thing we have to a southside student bar
- The Bald Barista on Aungier St - a crazy-friendly owner and crazy delicious coffee
- The new series of Skins. We heart Maxxie!
- The RAG Ball headphone disco - best event of the year!
- Ginger Oscar winners - Glen Hansard and Tilda Swinton

## What's not:

- AIB at Aungier St don't deal with cash, what do they deal with?
- Winter sunshine. Between the glare and the atomic shadows, it's making walking, driving and generally looking in a southerly direction an invitation to get a guide dog.
- Citi Bar. €5 for a mediocre Heineken? Having a laugh are we?
- Waiting for hours for a taxi: throw in some painful heels and some rain and it's the perfect end to a night out

## Let us know what you think

→ If you have any ideas, stories or pictures, let us know!

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It is also the policy of the DIT News to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor.



# Portland Row fails to provide basic facilities

Students forced to put up with overcrowding, limited equipment, poor heating and blocked drains

Facilities are so poor for the art students of DIT Portland Row that life drawing classes had to be cancelled after models refused to work without proper central heating.

A lack of natural light, cramped studio space, blocked sinks and drainage systems, as well as the recent loss of the college's sculpture yard to redevelopers, are among a number of problems facing the students in the North Dublin campus.

"This has been an ongoing problem for months and years. We get a lot of complaints from the class reps about the facilities in Portland Row," conceded Martin Dunne, SU Vice President.

The campus, which is being rented from a private owner, has failed to adequately supply students with the basic facilities required in an art college.

"We lost our sculpture yard because the man who owns the building wants to build a car park," Nadia Shah, a class rep from Portland Row informed us.

"We're meant to get some kind of compensation but I don't see how it'll help when we already have no space. We needed that sculpture yard for our work".

Constant blocked sinks has led to a

drainage problem within the campus, with students being unable to wash their brushes or equipment.

Equipment in the college is also very limited. "It's not unusual to be expected to spend half your day waiting to use the equipment," said Neasa O'Shea Brady, a Fine Art student in the college. "In print you have to queue just to be able to finish your work. You have to wait for everyone in the class and take your turn".

Studio space is a major concern in the campus, as the building is stretched beyond capacity and still has large enrolment numbers.

"In one second year art class, there are 50 students to one small studio," Martin Dunne added, highlighting the desperate lack of space being provided at DIT Portland Row.

Nadia Shah also pointed out that since the end of January, the art class has had an influx of Erasmus students.

Although she said the class have welcomed the new faces, the extra demand on space had led to students being forced to share the already overcrowded conditions.

Due to the nature of the college itself,

audio exhibitions and photography are expected to play an important part in the design of the campus.

Despite this, the rooms aren't sound-proofed and photography students are studying in rooms with little to no natural light changing the complete composition of the pieces.

It's hard to expect Portland Row to compete with other sites and provide services without a Student Union of their own. If students need to access information, learn of upcoming events, take part in societies, or talk to a Union officer, they currently need to leave their campus and walk to Mountjoy Square, the closest DIT that caters for both campuses.

"RAG and SHAG week weren't even promoted in this college. We have to go down to Mountjoy Square for anything to do with our societies or Student Union," Rachel O'Callaghan told DIT News.

On a more serious note, the health of students is at risk after the deterioration of some aspects of the campus and the quick-fix solutions that have failed to benefit the students concerned.

"We were told not to go out on the

One student got a scar from putting her hand through a broken glass door in the canteen



Above and right: Loose tiles, exposed wiring and unsafe conditions for Portland Row students. Photography: Fiona O'Keeffe



emergency exits because the stairs are unstable," warned Nadia Shah.

She also commented on the supposed heating issue being resolved but noted that no ventilation was in the main rooms. "It's difficult to breathe in there; I left earlier thinking I was going to collapse."

"We need the sinks and drainage to be addressed immediately, it's an art college and this can't go on," urged Martin Dunne.

There is talk of a proposed move to Denmark Street, but students are confused as to where they'll be studying in September.

What is clear, however, is that this inadequate and dangerous building cannot continue to be used by DIT students.

By Elizabeth McHugh

## Dream Destinations

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# Student's Union Elections

Whether you've decided or not, **DIT News** brings you the best student guide to the SU elections. We put each candidate in the hot seat (p1, cntd p5), report on hustings and look at how important the outcome could be for you next year. But first, meet the contenders with their views on tea, pubs and DIT life.

## President:

**Martin Dunne**



**Promises to:** "Extend library opening hours on ALL sites, press the DIT to ensure that student services for part-time students - your representatives will be the last people out - and most importantly I'll ensure you get value for YOUR money."

\*At time of going to print hadn't answered any questions about tea

**Alistair Graham**



**Best cuppa?** The one you make yourself, that way it's the same everywhere.

**Bodkins or Shine?** Up until a couple years ago, The Cornerstone was great! Then it went downhill, but has promise since the management change.

**You in three words?** Loud, distinctive, willing

**Advice?** Get involved! The more you put in, the more you can get out.

**Fave Memory?** Singing 'Time-warp' in Ennis at USI Congress.

**Rebecca O'Neill**



**Best cuppa?** Have to say do love Scholars in Bolton St, I know, I know, I should say my home turf here. \*hangs head in shame\*

**Bodkins or Shine?** I love Bodkins! The bar staff are so sound.

**You in three words?** Dedicated, determined, passionate.

**Advice?** Always put time aside for DITSU entertainments and nights out because there's nothing better than getting to know your classmates and people from other sites outside of class.

## Vice President Academic & Student Affairs:

**Tracey Flint**



**Best cuppa?** Can't afford a cup of tea, but the hot water is good for 40cent.

**Bodkins or Shine?** Neither, the Living Room Rocks!

**You in three words?** Ginger Nut Biscuit

**Advice?** Enjoy it while you can, get involved for we have the rest of our lives to work!! Try everything once...trust me on this!

**Fave memory?** Getting my ass pinched by an elderly lady at the Cathal Brugha Street Old Folks Christmas Party!

## Vice President Services & Trading:

**Best cuppa?** Java in Aungier St is pretty sweet but expensive, that's one thing I will change next year.

**Bodkins or Shine?** Cornerstone, and now it's under new management it's back to the old way we all loved!

**You in three words?** Outgoing, friendly and approachable.

**Fave Memory?** Clubs award night in Croke Park when we won best martial arts club. George Hook had us falling out of our seats, we filled the cup with beer and finished the night in the Big Tree.

**Ciaran Curtis**



**Best cuppa?** Home brew

**Shine or Bodkins?** Bodkins

**You in three words?**

Unpredictable, crazy and strong-minded

**Advice?** Try to go to as many events as possible and get involved where ever you can or you will miss out on the college experience.

**Fave memory?** The DIT Charity calendar, mainly because I was covered in paint!

**Brid Hughes**



**Promises to:** Tackle library opening hours, keep computer software licences updated, increase the number of data points around campuses, rejuvenate RAG week and possibly coincide it with other colleges to create a vibrant and safe atmosphere.

\*At time of going to print hadn't answered any questions about tea

**Dermot Julian**



**Best cuppa?** It used to be Eve's office in Aungier St. S.U.

**Bodkins or Shine?** Whichever has the better promos on. A pitcher for €10 in The Cornerstone was immense. It's on the way back!!!

**You in three words?** Not good at maths

**Advice?** Go on the lash, go to all the events, talk to everyone, join a society and try to score as little people in your class as possible!!

**Fave memory?** My ability time and time again, to pull a 40% average out of the bag. Ragtrips were amazing. (I miss Ragtrip)

**Johnny Moran**



## Poster battle:

Candidates have pulled out all the stops this year to grab our votes, but these two get top prize for originality!

**THE FLINTER**



Left: Tracey Flint, running for Vice President Academic & Student Affairs, goes retro

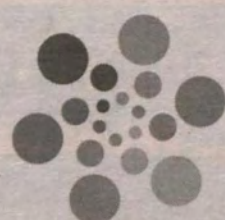
**RESPECT HER AUTHORITY!**



Right: Rebecca O'Neill, running for President, lays down the law



# We could have it so much better



dit students' union

Voter apathy, lack of awareness and bad organisation - all made worse by our sprawling city-wide campus. It's never going to be easy to inspire mass interest in student elections, but we could be doing it better.

**Eric Fitzgerald** suggests some changes

This is something I need to get off my chest. The Student's Union elections are an utterly shambolic series of events.

Hustings are poorly attended, elections are hastily announced, voters are ill-informed and the student body is disinterested. It's not these things which annoy me the most, however. It's that the Student's Union elections could be so much bigger, bolder and better.

It's a shame to see candidates stand up and eloquently detail their policies to a clink of cutlery and the hum of an apathetic audience. What's an even bigger shame is how hustings are organised.

The Aungier Street hustings was held during lunch in the main hall, where potential presidents and vice-presidents cried out in vain to those otherwise occupied.

Surely they would be better served addressing a smaller, yet interested, audience in a design-

ated venue? The Black Box theatre springs to mind. Or, if the organising committee are seriously concerned about informing students in large numbers, why not offer incentives?

A "Rock The Vote" style event would be the perfect solution. Attract a crowd with the promise of a band and have the candidates address those gathered in the middle of the band's set.

It may be the one time where they genuinely have the undivided attention of those whom they are addressing. The financial burden of organising another event need not be an issue. It is entirely possible that such an event could be combined with an existing DIT event i.e. the RAG Week Carnival.

There's no point, however, having candidates speak to voters if said voters are in the dark about the identities of those running for office. The election process in DIT seems rushed. Candidates are made known about two weeks be-

fore the election, and students are asked to make a decision in this short time frame which could have far-reaching consequences.

It's a concern that's easily addressed - just get the candidates out there with some time to spare.

Voter apathy is brought about by poorly organised elections. With a bit of effort, however, the process could be far more accessible, enjoyable and, most importantly, informative.

"What have the SU ever done for us?" is a common refrain of students. The answer? RAG Week, SHAG Week, Party Liason Officers, student support, help finding accommodation - to mention but a few of their accomplishments. But why are they so shy to publicise the work they do behind the scenes?

If DITSU bigged themselves up a little, maybe voters would see the importance behind elections. After all, if we had no union, college life would be a lot bleaker.

# Hustings: speak up!

By **Eric Fitzgerald & Finbarr O'Sullivan**

Hustings for the DITSU elections took place across DIT for a week this February. The events could hardly be described a success as the student body present were frustratingly inattentive and otherwise occupied.

The problems continued throughout the week of hustings as candidates were forced again and again to shout over loudly chatting students in the social areas of the different sites. Lunch time in the Snackery is no match for a single person with an inadequate mic.

It's a pity, because candidates had many valid points. Martin Dunne, the current Vice President (Academic & Student Affairs), spoke of his experience and claimed "I'm not giving promises, I'm giving guarantees!" He is also campaigning for a "fully functional" class rep system, "open offices" and the end of paying for past papers.

Alastair Graham feels his many tattoos and piercings make him a recognisable face among students and his campaign is based on doing what he is asked to. He even promises to get a DITSU logo tattooed on his leg if elected.

Rebecca O'Neill promised to champion DIT's cause at a national level and is determined to get the students voting, highlighting the fact that last time round only 2,100 of the 22,000 students cast a ballot. She also vowed to get more funding from USI.

The lone candidate for Vice President (Academic & Student Affairs), Tracy Flinter, said that she would help make students aware of their rights regarding accommodation and grants. Better student welfare for international students was identified as an important part of her campaign.

Ciaran Curtis, Johnny Moran, Brid Hughes and Dermot Julian all presented their cases in the race for Vice President (Services & Trading). Each are looking to improve the student atmosphere across campus. Improved participation in clubs and societies was another goal shared by all the candidates, with the introduction of "accreditation for participation".

In the Kevin Street questions and answers session, there were a few students aware of what was going on. The USI's involvement in DITSU, Kevin Streets' toilet facilities and EU students were key points raised.

The RAG Trip was a hot topic for the Service & Trading candidates with Brid Hughes possibly losing support when she stated that she would not bring it back but then quickly announcing she would start a new trip in a similar vein. If the majority of students there heard, they didn't show it.

With such vibrant, innovative ideas it was a shame that these candidates were largely ignored. An attempt at establishing a question and answer session at the Aungier Street event proved fruitless, which no doubt proved disheartening for the candidates.

## Election candidate Q & A

Continued from page 1

office.

Q: Library hours are an issue every year - what would you do differently to make them a non-issue once and for all?

A: "It's not just hours are the problem, it's the overall facilities in the libraries. DIT are applying for university status when they don't even have university level facilities in place. The number of computers and the services provided by the libraries need to be improved."

Ciaran Curtis is demanding an end to high prices from the catering companies in DIT.

Q: Just how do you propose to tackle high prices from third-party catering bodies which could pull out of DIT

easily, leaving students with no services?

A: "Students are a consumer market and these companies realise that. A combined campaign of pressure from DIT and DITSU, coupled with a student boycott, would force these companies to re-evaluate their strategy and lower prices."

Dermot Julian proposes harmonising RAG Week with other colleges to create a better vibe. Unfortunately, he was unavailable for comment.

Brid Hughes wants her tenure to be characterised by more student events if elected.

Q: Where will the extra funding come from for these extra events?

A: "There's been money left over

from previous years. We'll examine the financial records to see where the money is being spent, and where it needs to be spent. We should be able to reallocate enough funds for these events."

Johnny Moran wants more integration between the different sites of DIT.

Q: Would geographical difficulties not mitigate against integrating the different campuses?

A: "That's been the problem in previous years alright. I'd hope that, if elected, I'd get around to each site at least once a week. If all sites know who their sabbatical officers are, it should help to integrate them all together."



# DIT applies for university status: do we qualify?

By Rachel Faulkner

DIT's application for university designation is now fully underway, following a statement in December from the Department of Education. The college is hoping to be officially recognised as a university in the eyes of the state and aims to join the ranks of other leading institutions in the capital such as UCD and DCU.

The move comes almost ten years after DIT made its initial application in 1997, which was later turned down. A specially appointed review group at the time stated that DIT was on "a firm and clear trajectory leading, at a future time, to university status."

Since then, the college has met a number of recommendations laid out by the review group, designed to bring it in line with university levels.

The latest application follows a recent report on Waterford IT (WIT) assessing its eligibility for university status. The report, which does not reveal whether the decision has been made yet, features a section on DIT's previous application and the criteria used at the time.

Brian Gormley, head of DIT Campus Life, says this is an unfair comparison: "The worrying aspect is that she (the Minister for Education and

Science, Mary Hanafin) seems to have linked in her own head the WIT application and the DIT application, and the grounds for application are completely different. WIT's application is based on a regional development argument. Our application is based on merit," said Gormley, adding that "DIT is ranked higher than several of the Irish Universities in the world university rankings."

DIT now teaches up to PhD level, meaning it holds the same awarding powers as a university.

It plans to relocate to a new site in Grangegorman which spans across 29 hectares. The new campus will unite staff and students from the 39 locations across the city into one central location and will be Ireland's biggest higher education campus upon its completion in 2011.

In a recent letter to The Irish Times, President of DIT, Professor Brian Norton, explained the reasons for eligibility. He said that more than 21,000 full- and part-time students are currently enrolled at DIT, from apprenticeship to doctoral level, on career-focused programmes in the



Head of Campus Life, Brian Gormley (left) and Professor Brian Norton, President of DIT, call for university designation

arts and media, science and engineering, business and law, tourism and food, technology and the environment.

"In most countries, the term 'university' would be the only accurate description of the institution DIT has become," Norton said, adding that other distinguished ITs such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the renowned Indian Institutes of Technology are represented internationally as universities.

University designation would mean better recognition for the college on an international level and broaden the scope for collaboration with other universities worldwide.

Speaking to DIT News earlier this week Andy Doyle, president of DITSU said: "The USI and the European University Association are happy to recognise us as a university, which we already are de facto. I am confident that university designation will happen eventually."

## Apprentices left unregistered for 5 weeks finally get cards

Aoife Ní Ghlaicín-Riain

Electrical Engineering apprentices in Kevin Street, who went without student cards for five out of their 13 week course, finally received their cards early this month.

For those five weeks they were unable to use the Health Centre or Library services, or apply for Student Travel Cards.

Martin Dunne, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, led the successful campaign to get these students their cards, which would otherwise not have been issued until the end of February.

"We used our full repertoire to get this resolved", he told DIT News. "We talked to the students union, to Mick Devereaux in the Faculty of Science and to the registration office, and, finally, it has been resolved."

"Insurance was a big issue we raised," said Dunne. "There was a question as to whether these students should be allowed on campus for health and safety reasons."

He tells us that Dr Frank McMahon, Director of Academic Affairs, assured him that the students were covered.

There were various issues within the Registration and Human Resource departments, but the main problem was an industrial relations issue that caused a huge backlog in registrations this semester.

Many other students faced slight registration delays back in September, but these students were without cards for over one third of the duration of their course.

The course, which began in early January, is split between the Faculties of Engineering and Science.

Their lectures are based in Kevin Street, so this is where they needed to register even though the Faculty of Engineering is in Bolton Street.

Free use of the college services is something many of us take for granted.

"One student had to be issued a letter allowing him access to the Medical Centre," Dunne told us. "Now, with his card, he is able to use it whenever he needs to."

## New grants bill to cut the red tape but SU say more reform is needed

By Eric Fitzgerald

The long awaited Student Support Bill has finally been published.

The bill seeks to end the frustrations felt by many students over the inefficiency of the current grant system. The present scheme is confusing, open to abuse and is presided over by too many agencies.

Under this new legislation, authority for grants will be transferred to VECs. Application, processing and payment systems will be reformed so as to make them easier to use.

VECs will be periodically inspected to make sure that they are adhering to the terms of the legislation.

There will only be two grant classes, tuition and maintenance, under the new system. Students must be studying in the State for three of five years if they are to be eligible for a maintenance grant.

Applicants will be classified as independent or mature students and eligibility will be determined by examining an applicant's income limits, reckonable income and previous academic attainment, amongst other factors.

The appeals board will be more transparent so students will understand better why they have failed or succeeded with an appeal. New pow-

ers will be given to awarding bodies to allow them to pursue fraudulent claims and punish those who made them.

DITSU President Andy Doyle had mixed feelings about the Student Support Bill. "It's a start, but we've still a long way to go. The policy needs to be implemented yet and the central body needs to be set up."

"It's great for students because it's the first step in reforming the grants process. Any development in this area is positive, but a lot of leeway is still given to the awarding body, so this will need to be sorted out."



# DIT students for



By Seamus O'Neill

Another Valentine's Day came and went. A celebratory day for couples, with many giving their loved one a card, some roses, chocolates or maybe even a proposal?

Unfortunately for some, Valentine's Day is not the celebration they would like or hope it to be. For many same sex couples, Valentine's Day is another example of how their relationships are unfairly treated in the eyes of the Irish law.

March is going to be a very important time in the lives of gay people and couples all over Ireland. They will get one step closer to being treated like any other couple and less like second class citizens.

This month is expected to see the Government introduce the heads of a Bill for civil unions.

Once this legislation is introduced it is hoped that a Bill will be passed within a year, so perhaps gay couples might be popping the question next Valentines Day.

Bertie Ahern received a lot of love on Valentines Day when a six-foot Valentines card was delivered to Leinster House. The card bore the slogan 'Bertie MY VALENTINE'.

The group who delivered the card, LGBT Noise, filled it with 1,000 messages from gay people and supporters urging the government to reciprocate the love and grant civil marriage.

Although Bertie or any other TD or minister was unable to personally receive the card, it was taken into Leinster House by a member of staff.

Edward Matthews, who is an organiser with LGBT Noise, commented on the lack of appearance by Bertie or anyone else saying, "the people we elect to represent us could not come to meet us. This speaks volumes."

Judging by the comments of DIT students, it seems they would be in favour of gay marriage in Ireland.

It remains to be seen whether their voices will be echoed by the government in what is a very important month and year in the fight for gay civil marriage.

The issue of gay marriage has always been a thorny subject. But what do the students think? DIT News took to the corridors to get your thoughts, asking:

Gay marriage - are you **FOR** or **AGAINST**?

Debbie, 24

"Yes, I am in favour. They should not be segregated from the rest of us. They should have the same rights."

Jamie, 22

"I don't have an opinion either way. I could not care less. If that's what they want to do, then leave them at it."

Fiona, 21

"Yes, I am in favour. I don't think people should be treated differently because of their sexual orientation."

Joseph, 21

"I am in favour, they should be allowed to do what they want."

Rumana, 24

"Yes, I am in favour. They should be allowed to marry."

Igor, 21

"Yes, I would be in favour. It is a free country, people should do what they want."

## Kevin St exam cheat: you couldn't make it up

A Boards.ie post shows the best reason to bring water into an exam...

By Louise Tierney

We've all done it... sat staring at the clock in a particularly dismal exam coming up with brilliant, never before considered ways of cheating our way out of the repeat in August.

For most of us these thoughts are as close as we get to cheating, obviously because we are too honest as students, or in most cases because we don't actually have the balls to attempt it.

There are those amongst us however, who are desperate/brave enough to endeavour to cheat the stringent DIT examination system.

A recent posting on boards.ie describes the series of events that occurred when a student got caught trying to cheat in the Kevin Street Exams at Christmas:

The student in question was refreshing his memory with some cheat notes hidden behind his calculator, when he was noticed by a particularly astute examiner.

The series of events that followed are both inconceivable and hilarious in equal measure.

The examiner stormed over demanding to see the unfortunate student's calculator. She doesn't

wait for any explanation and attempts a quick grab.

He matches her deftness and also reaches for it. They wrestle for a bit. He rapidly pulls the notes out of the calculator.

He stuffs the paper into a tiny ball. He destroys the evidence by stuffing it into his mouth.

He then washes it down with a drop of water.

He smiles.

She doesn't.

DIT - What we lack in effort and honesty, we make up for in ingenuity and speed.

## Ireland's first ever fashion buying course

Ireland's first-ever Diploma in Fashion Buying and Management started in DIT on February 1st.

This exciting and innovative programme will provide an essential route of study for those interested in succeeding in the business of fashion.

Programme Manager and DIT graduate, Louise Conlon says "This new postgraduate programme will be intensive and energetic. Students will undertake a job placement, working with top class industry experts. They will also travel to international fashion weeks to gain an understanding of the operational aspects of the business of fashion buying."



Recognise this? We're told it's a smoking shelter. **Sascha Morrissey** attempts to shed light on the confusion

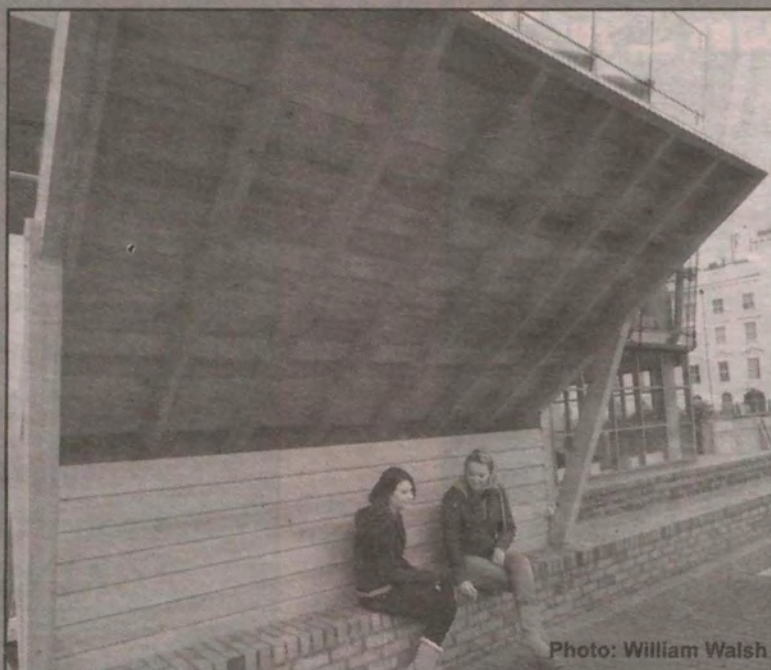


Photo: William Walsh

The new smoking shelter in the main courtyard of Aungier Street has been causing some confusion. "I sat under it once, but I thought it was just a seat," said Retail student Lorraine Byrne, 20. "It looks nice, like a lot of thought has gone into it, but you wouldn't really know what it was," she added. Lisa O'Donoghue, a business student, was completely unaware of the shelter. "I didn't know anything about it," she said. "It's a good idea, I'll use it now that I know it's there."

The shelter was built in hopes it would be a facility for smokers, and that it would lessen the number of students and staff smoking at front door of the college. However, it seems unlikely that it will be a success anytime soon, since so few are even aware of it. Those that are aware are still fond of the porch area at the front door. "I wouldn't really think of it even now that I know it's there, I'd still come out here to smoke," said Ms Byrne. "It is nice that there's something out there in that courtyard though."

It's looking like the shelter will remain underused for a while at least. Students who do venture to the courtyard to smoke can still be seen standing by the door rather than under the new shelter. Maybe the key is to inform students of what the construction is actually for? A piece of wood in the corner of the courtyard isn't exactly the most obvious form for a smoking facility to take!



## Biggest ever DIT Ski trip hits Val Thorens

By Brian Sargeant

**O**n January 26 the DIT Ski Club departed Dublin Airport for their biggest ever annual trip to Val Thorens, with college at the back of our minds.

The ski trip has grown over the last number of years with 65 revellers in 2006 and then 83 in 2007, to a colossal 121 snow hungry students in 2008.

Approaching Val Thorens, the highest ski resort in Europe, the travelling party looked on in awe at the snow capped peaks and pistes of Les Three Valleys, and anticipated the ludicrous week ahead of them.

It was great to be one of the

more experienced there, but the feeling of arriving on one's first DIT ski trip is almost indescribable.

With a social programme that included the likes of Bar Crawl, Caribbean Night, Golf Pros and Tennis Hos, Superheros Night, Mountain Fondue and Back to School, it was no wonder people were struggling to unload the bus, with most people having packed more costumes than ski wear!

With access to the most extensive and rather arrogant ski area in Europe (even better than Kilternan), everybody had a quiet first night, leaving the clubs at 4am, and awoke

eagerly later that morning to collect our equipment and embark on our first day's antics.

All would agree that there is nothing more refreshing than a day on the pistes, particularly in the subzero temperatures of Val Thorens.

Some of the more adventurous of the group located the snow park where our resident snowboarding stunt specialist Sinead tried her speciality move – "The 900 degree Wixty Wrist Wrencher" – and duely landed on a local hospital bed.

All and all, it was a tremendous trip and we all eagerly await Ski Trip 2009.

# Safe sex now cheaper for students

After years of lobbying from the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, the Government have decided the price of condoms is to be reduced.  
**Seamus O'Neill reports**

**F**inance Minister Brian Cowen made the announcement under the Finance Bill, which will see the VAT on condoms being reduced from 21% to 13.5%. This will mean the price of a 12 pack of condoms will be reduced from €13.20 to €12.40, while a three pack of condoms will go from €4.20 to €3.94.

The announcement came just ahead of Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance (SHAG) Week, which took place in colleges all over the country from the 11th – 15th February. This week was organised by both the USI and the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, with the main focus on educating students about safer sex. SHAG packs were distributed around campus in February.

President of the USI, Hamidreza Khodabakhshi, said, "condoms have always been overpriced in Ireland. This has meant a practical restriction on their availability for young people, the age category statistically most at risk from STIs." Hamidreza believes "reducing VAT on condoms to 13.5 % will cut the STI rate."

Ideally the USI would like to see the VAT on condoms and all other forms of contraceptives reduced to 5%.

A recent study of sexual health and relationships in Ireland found that one in five people between the ages of 18 – 24 thought the cost of condoms would discourage their use of them.

In a statement from the director of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, Caroline Spillane, said she welcomed the decision to reduce the VAT on condoms. "Condoms are the most popular method of contraception and they are one of the best forms of protection against STIs. While the reduction in cost to the consumer is not large, it will have an impact on the purse of the low-waged and younger person who report that cost is an issue for them."

With condoms in Ireland among the most expensive in Europe and not available under the medical card scheme, the reduction in VAT and subsequent drop in price has been welcomed by most people.

However, not surprisingly, there is one group who oppose the change. Martin Long, who is Director of the Catholic Communication Office, stated that the church was very much against the action taken by the Minister for Finance. In a statement he outlined the church's views. "The Church's teaching is clear: within the sacrament of marriage, the use of condoms as contraceptives is wrong, though there may be mitigating circumstances."

"Outside of marriage, the use of condoms encourages sexual activity, which is always gravely sinful. This decision sends the wrong signal to our young people as the promotion of condoms promotes promiscuity."



# THE US ELECTION:



## What's it all about?

It's the one election that everyone seems to have an opinion on; no, it's not the SU elections, it's the American presidential election.

Or, to be more accurate, the primaries, caucuses and whatchamacallits that will eventually decide just who'll be top dog for the Democrats and the Republicans come November.

Don't worry if you don't know your Obamas from your Clintons, **Eric Fitzgerald** is about to set the record straight...

**F**irst thing's first; what's this whole malarkey all about, anyway? Basically, every man and his dog who'd like to be President announce their intention to run.

But, because the United States operates a two-party, one-candidate system, there needs to be some way of filtering out the chancers from those who are actually serious about the whole affair.

The ordinary voters have the ultimate say as to who will represent their party in the final election.

The Democrats are quite old-fashioned about the process and go about it by means of a caucus. A caucus entails entering a room with a crowd of people and literally standing in the corner of your preferred candidate.

You couldn't make it up. But, then again, they're dealing with Americans, so instructions and procedures have to be as simple as possible.

The Republicans, however, go about it in a different, more traditional fashion with a secret ballot. The cornerstone of democracy, the secret ballot is fair, measured, trustworthy and the most demo-

cratic process around – all this from the party which managed to spawn George W Bush.

Each state holds a caucus and a ballot, though some have one and not the other for reasons which I shall not divulge here. The results are then totted up and one candidate from each party is declared the winner.

The winning candidates are allocated the fattest slice of the number of delegates on offer. They'll attend their respective party's national conference after all this primary hoo-hah is over.

However, each state is weighted i.e. some states send more delegates than others. For example, California is worth around 370 delegates, while Delaware is only worth 15.

Party rules declare that candidates must have amassed a certain number of delegates before they can officially be named as their party's presidential nominee. The Democrats require prospective presidents to have 2,025 delegates, with the Republicans demanding 1,191.

Now that the process is out of the way, it's time to take a look at the faces on those ballot pa-

pers/room corners.

The only two candidates worth considering for the Democratic Party currently are Hillary Rodham Clinton, wife of Bill Clinton, famous for his inability to keep his mickey in his trousers, and Barack Obama.

Hillary Clinton was initially tipped to sail through this campaign without much difficulty.

However, the Clinton cruiser seems to have run aground as of late, with commentators claiming that she doesn't show enough emotion and that voters can't relate to her.

Many conservative voters have shied away from her due to the ill-founded criticism that "no woman could be president!" Tar and feathers at the ready, girls.

One thing that cannot be denied about Clinton, however, is that she has years of political experience, both as Senator of New York and as First Lady during her husband's two reigns as President.

This is something which Obama lacks, but the man is a powerful orator, and he's been sweeping the latest batch of primaries.

Not to mention that he has black roots (his father is Kenyan), Mus-

lim roots (his middle name is Hussein), white roots (his mother is American) and Irish roots (his great-great grandfather took a piss in a pub in Offaly once.)

The only candidate worth discussing for the Republicans is John McCain. He's currently running away with it in terms of delegates, but would he be a credible president?

On the plus side, he's in favour of helping illegal immigrants legalise, and no Republican president could possibly be worse than Dubya.

However, this is the man who said he would continue the Iraq War for 100 years if necessary, not to mention his age.

With 72 years behind him, would he be able for the stress of the Presidency?

Sit back, relax and grab some popcorn, as the greatest political spectacle in the world rolls on. Pick a side – it's more fun that way.

When the dust is settled, the most powerful nation in the world will either have its first female president, its first black president or a very old man. No doubt the suspense is killing you.



# Turkey to Serbia: a fowl decision?

By Seamus O'Neill

Forget Irish troops in Chad, Bertie and the Mahon Tribunal and Obama and Clinton. The biggest news story since Watergate is that Dustin the Turkey is going to Serbia.

Yes, Dustin is being extradited to Belgrade on the grounds of crimes against music. The Irish public have voted to send Dustin to Belgrade to inflict his musical masterpiece on the greater European audience in the Eurovision Song Contest in May.

Dustin will represent Ireland in the world's largest music contest and perform in front of hundreds of millions of viewers worldwide.

Many are delighted we are sending our feathered friend to represent us, while others think it is a joke and makes a mockery of the contest. Dana, Ireland's first Eurovision winner back in 1970, called it a "foul decision" and said Ireland should pull out of the contest next year.

Dustin's song, *Irlande Douze Pointe*, has been greeted with as many boos as it has cheers. The story has gone global, with the UK, Spain and Australia covering the story.

Geeks of the Eurovision, sorry I mean fans, have also been vocal of their opinion of the song and performer on many of the Eurovision

dedicated websites.

People seem to be missing the point that it is all a joke. The song is a parody of the contest and everything that goes with it.

And it's not like we have not sent turkeys to represent us in the past; Gary O'Shaughnessy, Eamonn Toal, names no doubt you are familiar with!

The amusing thing about this whole charade is that Dustin might actually be one of the more successful acts in this year's Eurovision. He already has several number one singles and albums under his wing.

It remains to be seen if Dustin, whom most of us have grown up with, and his song can transcend borders and cultures or whether it will be lost in translation.

Performing in the first Eurovision semi-final on May 20th, Dustin is up against Europop from Andorra, a jazz number from Moldova, a ballad from Poland, as well as offerings from new entrants Azerbaijan and San Marino.



## Ain't no angry like an angry culchie

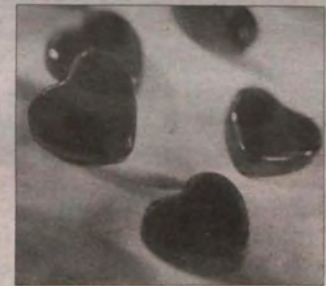
This month:

### Angry Valentine's day

By Eric Fitzgerald

The month of February has traditionally been characterised by two things. The first of these is the fact that, for some unknown reason, the month doesn't have the full compliment of 30 to 31 days. Maybe the composer of the Gregorian calendar succumbed to a temporary bout of dyslexia when drawing up February and forgot to correct their mistake.

The second is the most disgusting, lamentable of holidays, the one which makes couples coo and singles run for the hills, Ma; Valentine's Day.



If ever a review of holidays and celebrations was held, I'd be championing the abolition of this Hallmark holiday. There is no sight more loathsome than the student cafeteria decorated with bunting and banners wishing a "Happy Valentine's Day!". It's enough to make you want to vomit into your goulash – not that anyone would notice the difference.

What sick puppy argued for the inclusion of a holiday that, realistically, is the Nelson Muntz of all celebrations? It is literally one giant finger pointed at the face of single people everywhere, coupled with a deep, booming voice chortling "Haw haw!", presumably emanating from that butch looking girl who wouldn't even consider you as a last resort.

I'm sure it's wonderful if you're part of one of those many smug couples who just seem to multiply in number on February 14th. Or is it?

Isn't it just one long day of effort and hassle? The booking of a restaurant, the tear-filled argument upon the realisation that you forgot to book the restaurant, the thinking up of fresh excuses, the piecing together of your clothes as you find their charred remains in the ashes of a big fire she's built as vengeance?

Take my advice; lock the doors, close the curtains, throw on any film that's not a romantic comedy, and that box of chocolates you were going to give to that special someone? Screw them, you're going to need something for that film you're sitting down to watch!

## Lousy Lent...

... the feverish ramblings of a sugar-starved faster

By Fergal Reid

Ah, Lent... That wonderful self-imposed purgatory of denial that the virtuous and diet conscious among us undergo for weeks in the spring of every year.

Sitting here as I am in the Aungier St canteen, my location has gotten me especially curious about this ritual.

Seeing as I have been suffering from an unusually low blood sugar/sweets level since the beginning of Lent, here's hoping that I don't lose consciousness and suddenly pitch involuntarily forward into the keyboard of my laptop in the middle of this waffling twaddle...

Let's begin!

Whereas in the days of yore, Lent was a time for fasting (not too difficult to achieve when there's frequent famine and plague), nowadays it allows for a last-ditch attempt to regain the lofty moral heights of those recently disregarded New Year's Resolutions and help us look like less of a washing line when wearing white.

Naturally, though, there is still temptation, as anyone who has ever had to face the battery of chocolate bars at newsagent tills or the evil cack-

ling of less spiritual/hungry friends can attest.

Indeed, the sacrifices that Our Lord™ made can be easily understood by those who go beyond the normal "no Crunchies on a Wednesday" standard that we usually follow.

Two years ago I went without alcohol for the entirety of Lent. Jesus was promised by Satan that world would be his during his time in the wilderness; I was promised that my drinks would be spiked. That is at least a draw.

Deluded self-aggrandising aside (and what else is a newspaper column for?), my point is... Actually I have no point. Apart from the fact that I am really hungry and the next girl to say she is only off certain types of chocolate is getting a smack.

There is a place in heaven reserved for the good Christians amongst us who survive Lent without white refined sugar. It has chocolate towns and gummy bear forests; a beer waterfall and rainbows everywhere, hanging like diabetic seagulls in a strawberry shortcake-coloured sky.

That is to say, those are the feverish visions that my sugar junkie mind has been filled with of late. It's the least we deserve.



# THE HUGE oxygenie giveaway

20 TICKETS TO OXEGEN  
30 TICKETS TO ELECTRIC PICNIC  
10 TICKETS TO BON JOVI  
10 TICKETS TO HEINEKEN  
CUP FINAL

LOG ONTO [WWW.OXYGEN.IE](http://WWW.OXYGEN.IE)  
FOR MORE DETAILS



Photo: Kieran Keane



Photo: Kieran Keane

It's

DEBRA

DEBRA Ireland

To mark DIT'S RAG Week 2008, newly crowned Miss DIT, Kerri Ingram Walpole and members of the DIT SU urged all students to "Be a hero" for just one day and help raise much needed funds for DEBRA Ireland.

DEBRA Ireland is a national charity set up to raise awareness of and offer support to patients and families affected by the rare skin condition, Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB). This is a very painful disorder which causes the skin layers and internal body linings to separate and blister at the slightest touch. Fundraising and donations are vital so that DEBRA Ireland can fund services and research for patients and families with EB.

Last week, DIT students were reminded of the real reasons for RAG – Raising and Giving. SU President Andy Doyle said: "It is great to see so many students enthusiastic about raising money for charity while having fun along the way. I am glad that they have embraced the real reason for RAG Week and I hope we raise lots of money for this very worthy charity."

For more information contact Niamh at [niamh.h@debraireland.org](mailto:niamh.h@debraireland.org)

This year's superhero theme was bigger and better than ever as DIT got in to the party spirit for DEBRA Ireland



Photo: Kieran Keane



Photo: Eddie Carr



Photo: William Walsh



Photo: William Walsh



Photo: Kieran Keane



Photo: Kieran Keane





Photo: Kieran Keane



Photo: William Walsh

# Rockin' RAG Ball

By Orla Sheils



Photo: William Walsh



Photo: William Walsh

The Academy on Abbey Street was the venue of choice for this year's RAG Ball. The highlights included performances by Ham Sandwich and the much promoted silent disco.

The DITSU website claims the event is "already rumoured to have been the DITSU night of the year." However, some students expressed disappointment at the late start of the disco which had not begun almost three hours after the doors opened.

There was also some confusion regarding admission to The Academy.

One student in Aungier Street said "I went to the SU office to buy a ticket for the silent disco, and was told I wouldn't need one as I am an O2 customer."

I then asked would it still be better to buy a ticket anyway

but was told that this wouldn't be necessary, that I should just show up early."

When this student arrived 90 minutes after the doors opened, he was told that admission was restricted to ticket holders only.

By 12 O'clock, a crowd of students had gathered outside with the same complaint. The DITSU events and marketing department were unable to be contacted at the time of going to print.

Despite the admission latterly being restricted to ticket holders only, there was mass crowding witnessed on the stairs and entrance area as bouncers struggled to cope with the large body of people between 12 and 1am.

The ball was just one of the RAG week events held in aid of the charity DEBRA Ireland.

## SHAG Week '08



Photo: Eddie Corr

70,000 condoms were packed in SHAG packs right here in DIT for distribution to colleges around Ireland

## DIT TOYOTA FASHION SHOW

We're back. Wednesday 9 April, Vicar Street.

TICKETS ON SALE FROM MARCH 31ST  
IN ALL SU SHOPS. €20 PER TICKET



[www.ditfashionshow.com](http://www.ditfashionshow.com)



# DIT Karate chop their way to the Intervar- sity final

By Stewart Flood (Team Captain)

The annual Karate Intervarsities, hosted this year by Queen's University Belfast, were held on February 16th 2008.

With over 30 colleges eligible to attend, the Karate Intervarsities is always a fiercely competitive event. There are over twenty categories, including Individual and Team Kata (Forms) and Kumite (Sparring).

As in 2007 there were two styles of Kumite, WKF-Rules and Shobu Ippon. DIT Shotokan finished second in the overall standings, being beaten only by University of Ulster.

The day began with Junior Kata events where DIT Shotokan got 2nd place in the Team Kata. The same Kata team were later to win team Kata event in a higher category.

Susie Harris also secured 3rd place in Beginner's Individual Kata and 3rd place in Beginner's Individual Kumite. The DIT girls also came 3rd in the Intermediate Team Kumite competition.

Our Intermediate Men's Team (Sun Zyang, Dan Hetherington and Marcus Fitzsimons) was particularly strong this year and made a clean sweep in the Kata event, winning both the Team Kata and getting 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Individual event.

As always the DIT Shotokan Senior Men's Team proved worthy competitors and were only beaten by the narrowest of margins in the final of the Men's Team Kumite.

Club captain Stewart Flood also came 3rd in the Individual Shobu Ippon Kumite category, while Alex Barker-Singh came 3rd in the Individual WKF-Rules Kumite and 2nd in the Individual Senior Men's Kata. Congratulations to everyone involved in making the trip such a success.

The award for best club member of the day goes to Sun Zyang, who won Gold in Individual and Team Kata and Silver and Bronze medals in the Team Kumite. Sun also stepped up to replace an injured member of the DIT Senior Kumite team and performed as always to the highest standard.



## DIT students head to Malawi



Ten DIT students will jet off to Malawi in Africa for two weeks this Paddy's Day to help the "Wells for Zoe" charity with its work there.

The six guys and four girls will work to provide wells for clean drinking water and improve school facilities in Malawi.

Check out their fundraiser event in Zanzibar tonight, March 5th.

## PR SOCIETY BLACK & SILVER SCREEN TABLE QUIZ



6th March @8PM in The Palace, Camden St.  
Come along and test your knowledge of your favourite shows and movies! Table - €20, max four per table. Tickets on the door.  
Questions contact Maria on 0877729589

## Ciao!

to the brand new Italian Soc

Finally a little Italian culture has come to DIT! The new society is seeking everyone who has an interest in all things Italian. We will explore Italy through regular showings of films as well as by tasting REAL Italian food, both on campus and through evenings out.

But there's so much more than that! Wouldn't you like to know some of the secrets behind the world-renown sophistication of Italian design - in fashion, art, cars, architecture...so do we! Ferrari, Michelangelo, Caravaggio, Versace, there is something for everyone!

If you're interested in getting involved in thinking up cool things to do and making them happen, then get in touch! The events will be in English, so language won't be a barrier, but there will of course be time to pick up a word or two!

[italiansociety@socs.dit.ie](mailto:italiansociety@socs.dit.ie) or text 085 109 3212

## Seachtain na Gaeilge: bigger and better than ever

By Aoife Ní Glacken-Riain

Among other challenges, contestants will be judged on lovely tea-making, lovely laughing, and lovely walking abilities. All entrants receive a spot-prize and the top prizes promise to be impressive.

For the duration of the two weeks there will be a micro-Gaeltacht set up in Aungier Street. For all those who may be interested in a bit of oral practice, look for the green table!

There will also be a Toraíocht Taisce (treasure hunt), which proved very popular in past years, as well as a table quiz with Easter Eggs and other fabulous prizes up for grabs.

For more information check out the posters or have a gawk at:

[cumann-gaelach.bebo.com](http://cumann-gaelach.bebo.com)

**SKILL MASTERS**

1vs.1 B-Boy Battles Toprock

Sunday  
9th.03.2008

Place:  
The Laughter Lounge - Basement 4 - 8 Eden Quay - O'Connell Bridge  
Dublin 1/Ireland

Judges:  
Legendary Prinz Ken Swift/Rock Steady Crew/USA - BetterFly/AZIZI/Poland  
Jazzeo/Masterplan/Germany

On The Decks:  
DJ Timber / Zulu Kings/BTC /Ireland/UK - DJ Cool C/Ireland - DJ Laz-6/Ireland

On The Mic: CMX/Sideline Inc.

12.00 - Open doors  
13.00 - Battles Begin  
17.00 - THE GRAND FINALE  
22.00 - After Party

Tickets:  
Admission just 10euro & After Party 5euro



kind of a big deal. It will run for a whole fortnight, from the 3rd of March right up until St. Paddy's Day, with our very own Cumann Gaelach organising DIT's main festivities.

We're all aware of the controversy, corruption and shady dealings that surrounded the Miss DIT pageant. As an answer to that, the Cumann Gaelach are presenting the DIT Lovely Girls Competition. Inspired by Father Ted, it's just a bit of fun with no over-the-top pagentry. The search is on for a good auld-fashioned, wholesome, lovely cailín to take home the crown.



Name of Club	Members	Teams	Budget
Archery	80		€4,000.00
Athletics	35		€2,000.00
Badminton	30		€3,700.00
Basketball	50	3	€9,000.00
Canoe	50		€4,000
Camogie	30	1	€4,750.00
Caving	20		€3,000.00
Gaelic Football (Ladies)	32	1	€4,750.00
Gaelic Football (Mens)	198	5	€19,500.00
Golf	20		€1,500
Handball	50		€12,000.00
Hockey	35	3	€4,000.00
Hurling	150	4	€21,000.00
Judo	90		€2,650.00
Karate (Kempo)	30		€2,362.00
Karate (Shotokan)	30		€2,500.00
Karting	800		€12,500.00
Mountaineering	70		€12,000.00
Pilates	30	N/A	
Rugby	191	2	€6,000.00
Sailing	80		€5,000.00
Soccer (Ladies)	39	1	€2,950.00
Soccer (Men's)	50	2	€9,000.00
Soccer (recreational)	50	8	
Ski	450		€3,500.00
Sub Aqua	60		€3,000.00
Surf	325		€4,000.00
Swimming & Waterpolo	50		€4,200.00
Tae Kwon Do	20		€1,760.00
Ultimate Frisbee	270		€6,000.00
Wada Ryu Karate	12		€1,075.00
Yoga	45	N/A	
<b>Minority Sports</b>			
Boxing	160		€946.25
Equestrian	1		€374.48
Cue and Dart's	30		€2,288.30
Cricket	15		€1,151.30
Rowing	10		€319.00
Table Tennis	25		€548.30
Tennis	20		€410.00
Wing Tsun	10		€470.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3743</b>		<b>€180,197.00</b>

# DIT Sports:

## How much are they getting?

Each student pays a capitation fee, some of which goes to fund the Students' Union, and Clubs and Societies. Ski Club trips, Rag Week, Paintball Tournaments, Sports Scholarships, the Fashion Show are all funded by this money. Here, we look at exactly how much sports clubs receive

DIT allocated €68,000 to its 'Special Events Fund' and €14,250 to 'Promotions and Publicity', according to the funding report for societies and sports clubs which has just been published. 18 per cent of the over all Capitation Fee goes towards sports clubs and sports facilities on campus, but this list shows how much is given to individual clubs.

The budgets allocated to the DIT sports clubs demonstrates a great disparity in funding between the different squads. The ladies' soccer single squad receive €2,950 which the two men's soccer squads receive €9,000 between them. Herbie McClelland, DIT Sports Officer, explained why the men are financially assisted to a greater extent this year: "All of our ladies competitions this year are in Dublin, while the men are travelling around the country." He added that "The budget is based on the fixture list for the year".

Mr McClelland was keen to emphasise that the away matches are very expensive: "It cost the men's squad €600 for a bus to go to Cork to play a match today". The cost is paying off however with the A squad in the Umbro Cup Final, and the B team in the semi-final of the B division of the same cup.

The hurling team receive the largest funding al-

lowance overall within the sports division with a budget of €21,000. Mr McClelland said that this was due to the popularity of the sport: "We have four hurling teams, I suppose it is because it's our national sport".

It must also be acknowledged that many of our sports teams are excelling this year, with the DIT football team in the semi-finals of the Sigerson Cup for the first time. But what of lesser known sports?

In some cases, the minority sports received just as much as the larger clubs. The Cue and Dart's club gained €2,288.30 while the Equestrian team, which consists of one member, received €374.48.

Mr McClelland said that "we also have to look after the individual too, we try to facilitate everybody".

Each sports club is asked to complete two reports during the year, one at Christmas and another at the end of the academic year to highlight any problems they might have. Students therefore have the opportunity to raise any issues, including lack of funding. Mr McClelland said however that; "compared to other colleges, DIT are very well looked after."

**By Orla Sheils**

*NEXT MONTH: Societies - who are the big spenders?*

**Anxious?**



**Feeling low?**

**Aware**

Helping to defeat Depression

**Need a listening ear?**

**CALL THE AWARE LOCAL HELPLINE  
1890 303 302**

For details of the Aware Young Person's Support Group in Dublin please see  
[www.aware.ie](http://www.aware.ie) or call 01 661 7211



# DIT Toyota Fashion Show update



The fashionistas have been busy this year, planning the best ever show, plus events like the Miss DIT competition. Here's all the latest!

So what's been happening with the show this term? First up is the change of date - the show will now be on April 9th in the same venue, Vicar Street.

We have also settled on the theme for the show "Pure Imagination" - inspired by Charlie and the Chocolate factory. (No Oompa Loompas!)

The Miss DIT event took place in Sin on February 13th; it was a great success and congratulations to the winner Kerri Ingram Walpole who will go on to represent DIT in the Miss University finals. Also congratulations to Stephen Maloney who won the first Mr DIT competition. He wooed the crowd in this Valentine themed boxers and oiled-up body! The night was great fun and we look forward to it becoming an annual event. Check out our Bebo page

for photos: [www.bebo.com/ditfashionshow](http://www.bebo.com/ditfashionshow)

Capital D production also followed one of our models Eliza around for the day or her preparation for the event. The show will be airing a few weeks before the fashion show, keep your eyes on our website for date and time.

The stylish new fully-branded Toyota Aygo for the Fashion Soc committee has arrived and can be seen spinning around town. Give us a beep, if you spot us!

A team of 10 Fashion Soc committee members will be jumping out of a plane in aid of Teen-Line, in on 6th March in Sky Dive Ireland's base in Co Tipperary. Good luck to the girls and many thanks for the extra funds raised for Teen-Line.

The DIT Toyota Student Design

Award first rounds are on the 25th of March in a venue to be confirmed. We has a great level of entrants, and the judges will have hard job cutting them down. The panel consists of Mattie Doody (Fashion Designer), Sarah Mc Donnell (Editor of The Gloss magazine), Kate Nolan (Director of the Loft Market and owner of Fable clothing) and Avril Smith (Winner of 2006 Student Design Award and currently a buyer for A-wear)

If anyone is interested in getting involved in the show please, drop us a mail: [ditfashionshow@gmail.com](mailto:ditfashionshow@gmail.com).

Our new website is fully active so check it out for all up and coming news: [www.ditfashionshow.com](http://www.ditfashionshow.com)

Zoë Kinahan  
DIT Toyota Fashion Show 2008  
Director

## DIT drama festival!

By Aisling O'Sullivan

Forget the Jameson Festival, Cannes and Sundance, now it's time for us to parade our up-and-coming stars in the annual DIT drama festival.

Who Really Runs the Students' Union? is described as a comedy drama by writer and director Bryan Leonard. It follows the lives of three final year students all experiencing regrets. They are soon forced to face their inner demons when a 'higher being' takes over their day dreams and makes them deal with these regrets.

Listen, by Eric Fitzgerald is a play which explores the manner of human relationships. This is a thought-provoking play that is sure not to disappoint.

Caoilin Rafferty brings us Portia Coughlan, a woman trying to survive life without her beloved twin brother who died 15 years ago.

Fiachra Duffy directs Lettice and Lovage, for Mountjoy Square and Bolton Street. This a modern British comedy written by Peter Shaffer about a Shakespeare enthusiast, who serves briefly but inventively as a tour guide to Fustian House, one of Britain's duller National Trust Estates.

Dangerous Liaisons, directed by Kevin Street's Daniel King is an adaptation of the book Les Liaisons Dangereuses by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos. A play about seduction, manipulation, lies and deceit, it is the story of the Marquise de Merteuil and the Vicomte de Valmont, two wealthy and powerful conspirators who use sex as a weapon to humiliate and degrade others.

This is the Toyota Aygo - a car that's great around town and yours for as little as €29.99\* a week for the first twelve months. Arranging a test drive costs even less, so call us now on 1850 200 724 or text AYGO to 51070."

From  
**€29.99**  
a week\*  
for the first 12 months

Streetscene by Aygo

Warning: you will not own these goods until the final payment is made.

\*Toyota Aygo 5-Door Aura - Term 60 months. Interest (APR) 7.90%. Retail Price €13,440. Deposit/Part Exchange €2,640. Finance Advance €10,800. 12 monthly payments of €129.99, followed by 48 monthly payments of €240.45. Documentation fee €63.49. Purchase instalment €63.49. Total cost of credit €2,428.46. 1 Aygo 5 door Aura is retained at €13,040 ex delivery and related charges. Including dealer delivery related charges, the price increases to approx €13,440. This may vary between Toyota Dealers. Model shown for illustrative purposes only. Lending criteria and terms and conditions apply. Finance is generally provided by way of a fixed rate Hire Purchase agreement. The example illustrated is based on 7.9% APR fixed. All instalments are payable monthly. The weekly equivalent is shown for illustrative purposes only. The rate quoted is correct as at 14th January 2008 and is subject to change. The credit provider is Bank of Ireland Finance. Bank of Ireland Finance is a registered trading name of Bank of Ireland. Bank of Ireland is regulated by the Financial Regulator.

The Aygo comes with a 3 year or 100,000km parts and labour warranty and 3 year Toyota Europe emergency roadside assistance. Aygo 1.0 litre - Fuel Consumption L/100km - Urban - 5.5, Extra-Urban - 4.1, Combined - 4.6. Fuel emissions CO<sub>2</sub>/km - 109. Toyota Ireland is a 100% Irish Owned Company. \*\*Standard test rates apply.





# MADE IN THE DARK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RUTH MEDJBER

Ian: Jeans €61. Rubex  
cube belt €18. Neon  
yellow T €6. Jacket  
€46 - all Topman.  
Trainers € - Office.  
Ring €280 - Links of  
London

Danielle:  
Pink jeans  
€22.99. Heart  
necklace  
€5.90 - both  
H&M.  
Rock vest €51 -  
Urban Outfitters.  
Peep-toe shoe  
boots € - Office.  
Bangles €2 each -  
Penny's

Nana: Yellow dress €244 -  
See by Chloe at Urban  
Outfitters. Judge Dread T  
€55. Sunglasses €21 - both  
Urban Outfitters.  
Turquoise & yellow ban-  
gle €3 - both Penny's.  
Gold bangle -  
stylist's own.  
Colour block shoes € Of-  
fice



## NEW YORK P



Danielle: Black pinafore €69, Batman T €41 - Urban Outfitters. Belt €2, Tights €4 - Penny's. Pink friendship bracelet €165, Sweetie bracelet €330 - Links of London.



Ian: Red jacket €29.90, T-shirt €5, Scarf €7.90 - H&M. Cargo pants €46, Trucker hat €15 - Topman. Nike trainers (not pictured) €65 - Office



**LEFT**

Ian: Electro pop T €21, Black waistcoat €38, Jeans €61, Belt (as before) €18 - all Topman.  
Rogue ID bracelet €660, Rogue atomic double ring (as before) €280 - Links of London.

Nana: Zebra print dress €14.90 - H&M. Metallic scarf, stylist's own. Sweetie with rose quartz bracelet €190, Sweetie necklace €430 - Links of London. Bangles €2 each - Penny's

Danielle: Mac €29.90, Blue shorts €22.90, Heart necklace (as before) €5.90 - all H&M. Lightening T €38 - Urban Outfitters. Lightening shoes €85 - Office. Yellow leggings €4 and Bangles €2 each - all Penny's

**RIGHT**

Nana: Black colour hoody €29.99 H&M. Pink sundress €56 - Urban Outfitters. Purple tights €3 - Penny's. Sweetie bracelet with topaz €220 - Links of London. Shoes - model's own.

**Stylists:** Katie Teehan, Luc O Cinnseala, Rachael Ryan, Julie Kavanagh and Aisling O'Sullivan.

**Models provided by DIT Toyota Fashion Show:**

Nana Akoto, Danielle Fox-Clarke and Ian Kearney.

**Photographed by:** Ruth Medjber on location at Liberty Lane. Special thanks to The Village, Wexford St.

**Makeup by** Kim Strickland

Clothes, shoes & accessories kindly provided by H&M, Urban Outfitters, Topman, Links of London and Office.



# I ♥ NY



## J.P O' Malley spends a day in the life of New York City and finds some wonderful alternative sights



“No man is an island entire of itself” wrote the famous English poet John Donne many years ago. On 7th Avenue and 23rd Street I clutch my map a little bewildered and confused as I try to make my way back to my lodgings at the Chelsea Hotel. “Excuse me sir, can I help you find your way?”, a middle aged lady stepping off the packed rush hour subway inquires.

I tell her I think I may be lost; “Oh it’s just up there to the right, enjoy the rest of you stay in Manhattan

sweetie, you take care now”.

Walking up the grey, dilapidated steps of the subway, I somehow feel a great sense of community still exists in the heart of the madding crowd in the world’s busiest metropolis.

As smoke billows up from the brown subway sewers and yellow taxis beep their horns on the wide congested avenues and streets, I decide to take a short rest back at my hotel.

The Chelsea Hotel was once a haven for bohemians and beatniks in the 50s and 60s, when Manhattan was famous for its musicians, writers and artists, not cheap commodified outlet stores and consumer utopianism. These days, the Chelsea is more of a novelty for pretentious tourists like myself than an intellectual meeting point for the elite of the latest subculture.

There are still many artists in residence. If you sit long enough in the lobby, you can chat away to them, as they tell you how they partied with Dylan and Cohen back in the day, even though you don’t believe them.

Taking a walk up to room 819 where William Burroughs penned the famous novel *Naked Lunch*, the smell of marijuana drifts through the air, I get the feeling that someone is in there trying to complete the sequel.

Trying to strike a balance of enjoying the sights of Manhattan by day and socialising into the small hours of the morning can be a tough exercise, but a worthwhile experience none the less.

Setting your alarm before eleven is a golden rule, allowing you to rise

just in time for a late New York breakfast. This will set you up nicely for the day. Eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, fried potatoes, pancakes, syrup, fries, coffee - and that’s just a small portion. Make it another juice as well.

Not only is the food excessive and enjoyable, but so too are the wonderful background conversations you get to eavesdrop on while you casually tuck into brunch. New Yorkers have conversations over breakfast that you would hear in Ireland after closing time: “That’s why I told him, my therapist says I should just leave for good; I really don’t know how I feel.”

Although the subway is the most efficient way to get around the city, walking is the most rewarding experience. While making my way towards Little Italy and China Town, I found myself browsing through old 45s in a record shop in Soho and bumping into another museum of modern art. “Testimony to War: Art from the Battlefields of Iraq” was an intriguing, interesting exhibition in the Visual Arts Museum.

The exhibition was a collection of photographs and portraits from five emerging artists who have served time in Iraq. The images are harrowing and disturbing but give a clear cut message of the reality of this war.

Walking further downtown to the ethnic quarters, I witnessed the festivities of the Chinese New Year with the crowds of people letting off fire crackers and playing music on the streets. A relaxing cup of coffee in a quiet Italian café recharges the bat-

teries after participating in the New Years celebrations.

The subway ride out to Coney Island takes an hour, with the view consisting of houses, more houses and large graveyards that seem to go on for miles. As soon as I step off the subway station I notice how deserted the streets are. I walk to the beach and ramble down the decaying promenade.

A homeless man shouts at me and begs for money from afar as the seagulls take their place on the other wise empty beach. “Shoot the freak” reads a sign from the closed carnival, a rusty chain and lock bordering up the fence where an abandoned big wheel and roller coaster lie idle.

In the early part of the 20th century people came here for romantic walks and family day trips. All that’s left now is a population left in decaying public housing projects and memories of better times.

As the sun sets over Coney Island I step back on to the subway. I arrive back into the city to catch a glimpse of The Jack Kerouac exhibition in the New York Public Library. Inside is the original scroll of Kerouac’s masterpiece *On The Road* in its entirety. The complete original manuscript was written in just over three weeks on one piece of paper.

I skim over various lines of the manuscript and find a poignant line that it is a fitting tribute to the city that never sleeps: “New York gets god-awful cold in the winter but there’s a feeling of wacky comradeship somewhere in some streets”.



# Feeling Nimble?

If you don't know what social networking is, then you're in the minority. **Angharad Williams** talks to one DIT graduate who is taking on the powerhouses of the game with his own very Irish challenger, Nimble.ie.

**S**ocial networking was once the virtual playground of students, but in recent years it has become a phenomenon all over the world and members vary from office workers to housewives. New specialist sites are hitting the market to satisfy the needs of users.

Social networking has a few things in its favour - virtual interaction is a lot cheaper than a night in the pub; you can keep tabs on friends home and abroad, check out that hot girl/guy you met at a party or see what your ex is up to. These days it's becoming more common to ask for a profile name rather than a phone number.

So isn't it time Ireland has its own social network site? Nimble.ie is here to fill the gap in the market and it's the brainchild of one DIT graduate.

Per Jacobsson developed his idea for an Irish social networking website while he was a student at DIT. Originally from Sweden, he came to Ireland in 2001 to visit friends who were spending a year in Dublin. He decided to stay and registered to study a masters in Business & Entrepreneurship. "I come from a technology background," he said, "but I wanted to study business and there are only

a few masters you can do if you have a different background so I chose the course in DIT."

Per said what he learnt on the course was helpful when setting up his business: "Through the masters I got to develop my business plan which I used when setting up the site. It's a great course for someone who doesn't have a business background but is interested in entrepreneurship."

Per graduated in 2006 and decided to take his idea of a new social networking site and make it a reality. "Social networking sites have been a part of my growing up," he said, "and as I used them I picked up ideas on how to make them better."

The company behind Nimble was set up in early 2007 but since the website was redesigned in September 2007 with new features and a new look. So far, it has attracted over 100,000 members. Per describes Nimble as "a new fun, exciting website for young Ireland. It's something for Irish people to be proud of. We offer a lot more fun things that you won't see on other social networking websites, such as who has visited your site and the ability to edit the way your profile looks."

The site has attracted a predominantly Irish membership, with most users between the ages of



Per Jacobsson

16 and 24. The average age is 20 and 65 per cent of the users are female. Monday is the busiest day for new registrations. Per puts this down to people getting over the Monday blues and reminiscing about their weekend.

However, social networking has its critics. Per is of the opinion that social networking is an addition to the way people communicate; "I don't think it replaces communication, I think it enhances it. I think you don't always have something substantial enough to say so you don't pick up the phone, whereas if you log in everyday you can see what people are up to."

In the future, Nimble is set to expand and develop the features available to members. "We're working on the profiles being more like a personal website," said Per.

"We're looking to expand the site a lot this year and we are building our team. We're currently looking for marketing, sales and technology staff. We're still pretty small but we're growing."

[www.nimble.ie](http://www.nimble.ie)

## BURGERS

Protein Style Burgers Available

- The Protein Style Burger** - prime juicy beef burger made from fully traceable young heifer meat under 20 months old supplied by leading Master Butcher Dairy O'Bole **€7.50**
- The Cheddar Burger** - prime juicy beef burger topped with Old Dubliner Cheddar cheese (iceberg lettuce, beef tomato & mayo optional) **€8.00**
- The Bacon Cheddar Burger** - prime juicy beef burger with cured smoked bacon Old Dubliner Cheddar cheese (iceberg lettuce, beef tomato & mayo optional) **€8.50**
- The Mushroom Burger** - prime juicy beef burger with Old Dubliner Cheddar cheese, beef tomato, red onion, gherkin, iceberg & **€8.50** special relish
- The Cheese Burger** - prime juicy beef burger with cured smoked bacon, Old Dubliner Cheddar cheese, red onion, iceberg lettuce, beef tomato, mayo & bbq sauce **€8.95**
- The Curry Burger** - prime juicy beef burger with guacamole, cured smoked bacon, caramelised onion, black pepper, iceberg lettuce & **€8.95** special relish
- The Chicken Burger** - prime juicy beef burger with Cashel Blue cheese, cured smoked bacon, red onion, rocket, black pepper & **€8.95** special relish
- The Mushroom Burger** - prime juicy beef burger with tomato relish, meat peppers, black pepper, iceberg lettuce, tomato & garlic mayo **€8.95**
- The Mushroom Burger** - prime juicy beef burger with caramelised onions, beef tomato, iceberg lettuce & horseradish cream sauce **€8.95**
- The Chicken Burger** - prime juicy beef burger smothered with chili, hot salsa, gherkin, jalapeno, cream cheese, iceberg lettuce, beef tomato, red onion & **€8.95** special relish
- The Mushroom Burger** - delicious lamb burger with feta cream sauce, red onion, cucumber, mayo & iceberg lettuce **€9.25**
- The Mushroom Burger** - prime juicy beef 'n' pork burger with cured smoked bacon, smoked Applewood cheese, iceberg lettuce & **€9.25** special apple relish
- The Spring Burger** - prime juicy beef 'n' pork burger with chorizo sausage, rocket, parmesan, black pepper & **€9.25** special apple relish
- The Chicken Burger** - prime juicy beef burger topped with **€8.95** spicy Chicken, chorizo sausage, rocket, beef tomato, iceberg lettuce & mayo
- The Spring Burger** - prime juicy beef burger topped with **€8.95** home-made coleslaw, lettuce, red onion, beef tomato and American style mustard
- The Mushroom Burger** - free-range chicken fillet with iceberg lettuce, beef tomato, red onion & **€9.95** special sauce
- The Mushroom Burger** - free-range chicken fillet topped with **€9.95** mango chili salsa & iceberg lettuce, beef tomato & **€9.95** special sauce
- The Mushroom Burger** - finger chicken good fish finger burger with mushy peas, tartare sauce, red onion, beef tomato & iceberg lettuce **€8.95**

## VEGETARIAN BURGERS

- The Portobello** - portobello mushroom, roast peppers, rocket, beef tomato, red onion & red pesto **€8.20**
- The Ramen** - home-made falafel with tomato-cucumber salsa, fresh mint rice, roasted pepper & salad **€8.20**



## SIDES 'n' STUFF

- Proper Chubby Chips** - cooked in the purest unrefined veg oil **€3.95**
- Proper Skinny Chips** - with rosemary salt, cooked in the purest unrefined veg oil **€3.95**
- Chips 'n' Home-Made Coleslaw** - cooked in the purest unrefined veg oil **€5.00**
- Chips & Special Mushy Peas** - cooked in the purest unrefined veg oil **€5.00**
- Onion Rings** - with mayo & sweet chili or curry sauce **€5.25**
- Chili Cheese Chips** - cooked in the purest unrefined veg oil **€5.50**
- Midi Chips** - Garlic Mayo, cooked in the purest unrefined veg oil **€4.50**
- Special Curry Chips** - cooked in the purest unrefined veg oil **€4.50**
- Chips 'n' Three Dips** - garlic mayo, curry sauce & sweet chili sauce, cooked in the purest unrefined veg oil **€5.25**
- Mixed Leaf Salad** - rocket, iceberg lettuce, tomato, red onion, cucumber, fresh peppers with a balsamic vinegar and extra virgin olive oil dressing **€7.00**
- Rocket & Parmesan Salad** - rocket salad with shavings of Parmesan, drizzled with a balsamic and extra virgin olive oil dressing **€7.00**

## EXTRA'S

- gherkin, beef tomato, red onion, iceberg, rocket, bacon, sausage, egg, Cashel Blue cheese, Old Dubliner Cheddar cheese, parmesan, roasted peppers, caramelised onion, fried onion, red pesto, guacamole, hot salsa, cucumber, rice, **€8.95** tomato-cucumber salsa, cream cheese, feta, cream cheese, **€8.95** home-made coleslaw, relish, tomato relish, **€8.95** special sauce, sweet chili, bbq, curry, wholegrain mustard, American style mustard, English mustard, tartare sauce

## AFTERS

- Ice cream wafers** - ice cream sandwiched in wafers
- Coke float** - vanilla ice cream, salami in coke
- Special Chocolate Biscuit Cake** - with 2 scoops of vanilla ice cream & chocolate sauce
- Oreos and Ice-Cream Delight** - with chocolate sauce

## Drink

Wine - ask server 1/4 Bottle €5.

## Soft Drinks

- Bottle of Coca-Cola, 7up etc. 180ml **€2**
- TK red lemonade Glass **€1.50**, Pint **€3**
- Irish Spring water 25cl **€2**

## Shakes 'n' Malts

- Strawberry **€3**
- Vanilla **€3**
- Chocolate **€3**

## Smoothies

- Very Berry **€3**
- Banana Bounty **€3**

## Juices

- Zinger - pineapple, orange & lemon **€3**
- Energiser - carrot, apple & ginger **€3**
- Mango Tango - mango, strawberry, orange & pineapple **€3**

## Hot Beverages

- Range of coffee and Matcha Bar herbal teas
- Soya Available add **€1**

## Bobbo's Breakfast Menu

Served till 11.30 daily

All Bobbo's burgers are 7oz patties. Made from 100% quality Irish heifer meat. Supplied by one of Ireland's leading Master Butchers. 200 Bobbo's is a trademark of Bobbo's Burgers. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.



# Meet Pierce Beasley: dedicated to keeping DIT Green

**Y**ou're a modern student. You've just finished your beverage in Java City and want to recycle the cup but the bin says "No coffee cups". Why? Because, says Pierce Beasley, DIT's Recycling Officer, the beastly things are infused with non recyclable plastic to make them leak proof.

If that isn't ridiculous, then what is?

Four years ago DIT and IMPACT, the union representing the majority of the maintenance staff at the college, entered a partnership to implement a recycling policy. "We are now reaping the benefits of this policy", says Pierce.

Apart from the nonsense of the non-recyclable coffee cups, more or less everything else in college gets reused in some form or another, including the oil from the chips. Apparently it comes back in the form of cosmetics, but hopefully not burger flavoured lipstick. The main thing is that it doesn't go into landfill.

Deep in the bowels of the Aungier St building lurks a machine which compresses all the cardboard into manageable flat packs ready for recycling. Beside it a huge shredder deals with all the secrets from the offices of the academic staff.

"The maintenance staff at the college are dedicated to recycling", said Andy Doyle, outgoing President of the Students' Union. But Pierce, who has recycled himself from a twenty-six year stint at The Irish Press into the Recycling Officer, is the person who is responsible for making sure it all happens.

Should you be wending your weary home of an evening, say at about 3.30 a.m., and see the lights on in college, it won't be someone rifling through your lecturer's office trying to steal that essay that you spent so much time writing. It's much more likely to be Pierce sorting through the waste and separating it.

His life would be made a lot easier if people were more aware of which bins to put which rubbish in. While there are signs up around the restaurants and in some rooms it may not always be obvious.

Trevor Seery from the Environmental Society based in Bolton St. advises people to look out for transparent bins. They are the ones for the recycling stuff, but not sandwich wrappers and coffee cups.

Since the inception of the recycling project, the amount of waste being sent to landfill by Aungier St has dropped from seven 40 tonne skips per week to less than one.

Each of the six DIT colleges has an environmental waste policy but the move to Grangegorman may cause chaos unless a standard method of recycling is introduced across all of the sites.

Not surprisingly, it is students from Bolton St studying subjects like Environmental Management who have been investigating this particular problem.

Seery would like to see standardisation introduced across DIT, but as yet he is only a student and doesn't have too much time to get things done. He is hoping to introduce 'Green Week' to get people thinking about environmental issues, but needs a steering committee to give him a hand. If you would like to get involved give him a ring. It could be the start of your new career in Environmental Management.

By Deirdre Davys



Pierce Beasley, DIT's Recycling Officer who works tirelessly to sort through our waste and make sure as much as possible is recycled. Thanks to his work the amount of waste being sent to landfill by Aungier St has dropped from seven 40 tonne skips per week to less than one

## DIT drama festival

March 3, 4, 5 - KEVIN ST. DRAMA

'DANGEROUS LIASONS' by Christopher Hampton

March 6, 7, 8 - BOLTON ST. & CATHAL BRUGHIA ST. DRAMA

'PORTIA COUGHLAN' by Marina Carr

March 10, 11, 12 - BOLTON ST & MOUNTJOY SQ. DRAMA

'LETTUCE & LOVAGE' by Peter Shaffer

March 13, 14, 15 - AUNGIER ST. DRAMA

'LISTEN' by Eric Fitzgerald

'WHO REALLY RUNS THE STUDENTS' UNION?'

by Bryan Leonard

3rd - 15th March 2008

7.15pm. BLACK BOX THEATRE, AUNGIER ST CAMPUS  
TICKET PRICES: ADULT - €8 STUDENT / CHILD - €6







The Blizzards accept their award for Best Irish Live Performance at the Meteors

# Meteoric rise

By Elizabeth McHugh

**S**tars shone and drink flowed at the 8th annual Meteor Irish Music Awards on Friday February 15th. Ireland's biggest celebrities, and even some faces from foreign shores, graced the orange carpet at the RDS to accept awards and perform at the event.

Pint-sized Paddy Casey opened the show with a rendition of Addicted to Company, the title track to the same album that he picked up for Best Irish Album. Other performances ranged from Cathy Davey, later named Best Irish Female, The Blizzards and the artists of The Cake Sale.

Young Dublin band The Coronas, who reached fame late last year with San Diego Song, received a warm reception from the audience as they took to the stage.

The most anticipated performance of the night was the collaboration between

Sinéad O'Connor and Republic of Loose. O'Connor, usually a solo artist, blended well to the modern trip-hop sound that is Republic of Loose.

British Tom Baxter, who has achieved newfound fame with his second album Skybound, made a real impact at the awards. His song writing and intense performances explain his growing audience and would be well worth a visit when he plays the National Stadium in Dublin next May.

Boyzone were a big feature of the night as well, as they celebrated their return to the Irish music scene with a medley of their greatest hits. "We just feel lucky to have this second chance," said Shane Lynch, when asked about the reforming of the band. The media attraction of Boyzone far outshone that of Westlife and reminded the industry that the current kings of Irish pop were

merely a prodigy of Boyzone ten years ago.

Dara O'Briain played the part of comical host, no doubt one of his toughest gigs to date. Having to appeal to young teenage girls as well as music executives, O'Briain was relaxed and entertaining, while maintaining a balance to satisfy the audience.

Winners on the night included Westlife, Aslan, Damien Dempsey, The Blizzards, and international act Muse, who justified their "Best International Live Performance" from Oxygen with an electric set on the night.

Undoubtedly one of the biggest nights of the year,

the Meteors opened 2008 with optimistic hope for the growing Irish music scene, as it is reported that the awards hit a record number of audience attendance and television viewers.



Westlife bag Best Irish Pop Act

## Over to you...

**Hannah Quinn** took to the corridors of DIT to ask

*What are you into right now?*



**Jenny Moore:**  
Retail Services & Management

**What are you listening to at the moment?**  
Chris Brown  
**Last album you bought?**  
Chris Brown - Exclusive

**What in your music collection are you most ashamed of?**  
Britney Spears



**Luke Roche:**  
Business & Management

**What are you listening to at the moment?**  
T-Pain  
**Last album you bought?**  
T-Pain - Epiphany

**Who are the best live music act you've ever seen?**  
Looking forward to Shane Ward and Westlife!



**Stephen O'Riordan:**  
Business

**What are you listening to at the moment?**  
Batman Soundtrack  
**Last album you bought?**  
Radiohead  
**Last gig?**  
Bruce Springsteen

**What in your music collection are you most ashamed of?**  
Backstreet Boys



**Liz McHugh:**  
Journalism & Irish

**What are you listening to at the moment?**  
Damien Rice  
**Last album you bought?**  
Justice - Cross  
**Last gig?**  
Bloc Party

**Who are the best live music act you've ever seen?**  
Ham Sandwich



**Will Donnelly:**  
M.Sc. Business

**What are you listening to?**  
Razorlight  
**Last album?**  
David Gray - Greatest Hits  
**Last gig?**  
Razorlight in New York

**What in your music collection are you most ashamed of?**  
Bee Gees



# DIT photography student showcase



## BETTY

(left)

**Photographer:** Anna Wickham

*"This is a picture of a family friend taken in the style of Diane Arbus. I used a lot of props to help convey the subject's personality and also to help relate it to Arbus' quirky photographs."*



## BIG NIGHT

(above)

**Photographer:** Connie Nauenburg  
Taken at the junction on Dame Street

## FAITH

**Photographer:** Kathrin Baumbach



(above) **Photographer:** Ronan Johns

One photograph from a series of self portraits depicting the "lower" class of Ireland



## LOVERS

(left)

**Photographer:** Noel Noblett

*"The photo was taken last year in the village of Hollyfort, where I come from, in Co. Wexford"*

## THOMAS CLARK TOWER, BALLYMUN

(below)



**Photographer:** Ciara O'Halloran

*"I lived in this tower on the 9th floor which you can just about see. I lived here from when I was born until I was 7 yrs old. I have no bad memories of living in this flat and its sad to see it going."*



# INTERVIEW: The Coronas

By Louise Tierney

For the entire duration of their Radio City charity gig, The Coronas did not stop smiling.

The Terenure three-piece have plenty to be smiling about, having experienced a meteoric rise from obscurity to the forefront of the Irish music scene in the last year.

Lead singer Danny O'Reilly maintains the same vigour and enthusiasm when talking about the band and their success, as the band do in their performance. "Last night was amazing; we were just saying ourselves afterwards that it felt like one of our own gigs we enjoyed it so much."

Danny attributed their immense popularity rise in the last year to many different factors.

The main reason was the success of the flagship single, the J1 ballad "San Diego Song". "It just really caught on with people," he said. "It's very different in style to

the rest of the album. When we brought it out we were hoping that it would get reaction from people even if it didn't get the airplay. Obviously getting the airplay on daytime radio also helped."

Having been students themselves up until this year, it wasn't until they graduated from their respective courses including commerce, arts and sound engineering that the band turned their full attention to music. Danny explained: "It helped us that we had an indie label. We never had a major record label pushing us so we were free from that kind of pressure."

RTE's talent contest "You're a Star" recently featured the band, seeking their advice for the hopeful contestants on the show. "It's hard for people to get any connectivity out of programmes, but the main thing I would say is to

enjoy it while you can. This goes for everyone in the business because there are no guarantees."

When asked what he thought of people getting famous off the back of programmes like this, Danny said that it's so hard to get into the mainstream media that he "wouldn't judge anyone for it in the same way that hopefully people won't judge us on the fact that we got fame off the back of a holiday song."

In terms of the band's song writing, Danny stresses how their songs are about "how I felt at the time. That's how I want them to come across. A lot of the songs on the album

are deeply personal songs. For example, 'The Talk' is based on an actual conversation that I had with an ex."

In terms of what the future holds for The Coronas, the next few weeks are hectic with non stop gigs. The band play the Ambassador Saturday the 8th of March.

They have also been confirmed for this year's Oxegen festival, and have plans for the UK in the summer along with starting writing the second album.

When asked if the band had similar plans to other Irish plans of travelling to the US to record, Danny's joking reply was "any excuse for a holiday to the States."



## Comedy

Paul Rowley reviews Ireland's top comics:  
Dara O'Briain and Andrew Maxwell



Dara O'Briain

Relying on improvisation and razor sharp wit, Dara O'Briain continues to draw enthusiastic crowds to his Irish gigs.

Famous for his successful television career, the Wicklow funnyman proved he is no slouch when it comes to stand-up. Refusing to let a bad throat hinder his performance, O'Briain managed to keep the Vicar Street crowd enthralled and entertained throughout.

O'Briain's material is wide-ranging, with everything from drugs and shady hotel guests to Anglo-Irish relations picked apart and ridiculed.

His relaxed and assured style means that political jokes, like "In China they have one word for China and Tibet, and it's China", are as well received as his goofy assertion that "if a nutritionist is like a dentist, a dietician is like a toothiest".

O'Briain's popularity worldwide has seen him perform successfully in Boston, Dubai, Adelaide and Shanghai. Some facets of O'Briain's humour, however, are uniquely Irish and only appreciated by a home crowd. Playful jibes against British occupation and the odd joke as Gaeilge would surely be lost on an international audience.

With his spontaneous and improvisational style, no audience member is safe from his wit as the comic randomly picks on members of the crowd throughout the show. The show's finale received the biggest laugh, as he returned to every person he targeted during the show to give them one last tirade of abuse.

With creative retorts, inventive anecdotes and sarcastic twists, Dara O'Briain is likely to have audiences reaching for the aisles for years to come.

Andrew Maxwell's reputation continues to grow as he kept a packed Vicar Street captivated with his own unique brand of comedy.

His performance lacked none of his usual gusto. He expertly dealt with a renegade heckler with a cool retort of "I'm a comedian you know? You're not going to win."

The back and forth between the pair turned into a master class of how to deal with wannabe comedians, and became one of the funniest moments of

the show.

The Kilbarrack native showed he knows how to please an Irish audience by gladly performing his Bosco impression for the eager crowd.

The impression was made famous on a 2005 episode of The Panel and has since received over 100,000 views on YouTube.

Despite gaining most of his fame through working on TV, it was obvious that Maxwell is most comfortable on stage. His most un-politically correct

jokes won the biggest laughs from the crowd. One such classic was his description of hitting a transvestite, "All the pleasure of hitting a woman, but none of the guilt".

Maxwell offers a change from many other comedians, as he deals with complex social and political issues, but adding a witty twist.

Channel 4's King of Comedy is a master of the anecdote and quick putdown and is a must-see for any fan of the Irish comedy scene.



## INTERVIEW:

## Clodagh Kerley



There is something suspiciously familiar about meeting Clodagh Kerley that sets off alarm bells. Her story is one that, at first, appears to have been told countless times. Living in a trendily dilapidated part of Dublin, this young girl is determined to make it in the music industry. Clodagh resides with several other musicians and artists in what can only be described, loosely, as a creative hub.

So what makes Clodagh different from all the wannabes out there? Quite simply, she has an abundance of talent and is not afraid to use it.

Talking about her experience in her secondary school orchestra, Clodagh explains that, "because it was so disciplined I learned to discipline myself, so I can sit down and concentrate for hours. I also learned the importance of simple things like tuning and timing, how real music is made."

Having recently graduated from the Ballyfermot College of Further Education, known as The Rock School, Clodagh has continued to take positive steps toward her chosen career. She has taken a year out to write and produce her eagerly awaited EP.

"I get my inspiration from everything. It is how I feel about something, little things that annoy me, events in my life. Stuff like that.

"When actually writing I always just try to get the chords first, something

can tell that there is a lot more going on under her bubbly exterior. Clodagh writes about aspects of her life that many of us would not like to confront in our own.

Her lyrics have a quality that is rare in modern music; honesty. This is not an easy thing to achieve but it gives her songs great weight and presence.

"I find it very hard singing to people I know and I am afraid of what people might think or what they say. But if you feel a certain way at the time you write a song you shouldn't be ashamed of it, so you just want to get it out there. Why not?"

Beyond all these feelings of anxiety is a steady current of professionalism and dedication to her art. "I think what I am writing about is quite different and the way I do it is different as well. I try to play with bigger balls than other songwriters. I like to use chords that sound different, augmented or diminished, things like that. I use dark chords that sound spooky."

Apart from the creative factors that determine a song's sound, Clodagh has a vast resource of technical knowledge. "Changing time signatures during the song and using different timing and different rhythms can change a song's feeling. Trying different instruments, is really important."

The fact that Clodagh can play sev-

eral instruments means that she knows all the elements of her work intimately.

"You have to think about everything, how the drums will sound, the whole lot. Do you invert a chord or change a word or change a line? Maybe you thought it was great the first time, but you always go back and listen to it a few days later and you realise that a word does not fit there. You just keep going over it until you feel happy and you know you have done all you can. It happens all the time that you bring a song to the final stage and then you realise its not working."

Working in such an uncertain field means it can be hard to find recognition but Clodagh is fiercely determined, which pays off. "I have had mixed reactions from people in the real

**Patrick Clarke meets the singer/songwriter to talk about life as a musician, the creative process and being misunderstood.**

**“ I find it very hard singing to people I know and I am afraid of what people might think or what they say. But if you feel a certain way at the time you write a song you shouldn't be ashamed of it, so you just want to get it out there. Why not? ”**

world. They don't understand that you're a singer/songwriter and trying to play music for a living. Practical people in business or law don't understand and are shocked. It feels terrible, you feel like you're always trying to convince people the whole time and trying to prove something at every gig to everyone that I can do it. Especially when people think that what you do is stupid and think that you will never make it."

In the face of adversity, Clodagh is making waves. With a growing fan base, a highly successful Myspace site and playing in various venues all over Dublin, Clodagh is going from strength to strength and shows no signs of slowing down. Catch Clodagh's next live performance in the Lower Deck on the 3rd of April at 8.00pm.

**For more information or to contact Clodagh visit [www.myspace.com/clodaghkerley](http://www.myspace.com/clodaghkerley)**



Entertainment reporter **Luc O Cinnseala** takes a look at the car-crash life of the former pop princess

**I**t really is tough to keep up with the fast paced life of self-proclaimed Ms. American Dream, Britney Spears. Luckily the media are there to talk us all through her comings and goings in unnecessary detail.

Not so long ago a Sky News report on Steve Wright, accused of the murder of five Ipswich prostitutes, was interrupted. Why? Because they were receiving 'exclusive' grainy footage of what looked like Britney Spears leaving her house for her lost custody battle.

The woman has seen her media attention skyrocket in the past year. Almost every day we learn something new about 'what Britney did yesterday'; whether it's a trip to rehab or another delightful picture of her getting out of a car with her legs wide open.

Unfortunately for her, there is no getting out of this spotlight any time soon and she is clearly not doing a whole lot to change this.

So where did it all begin to crumble for the girl who had it all? A 55-hour Las Vegas wedding probably wasn't the worst place to start but it really began to unwind that fateful February night last



year when Spears took a razor to her hair. The move, which came in the middle of her divorce proceedings was completely unexpected and threw Britney back into the spotlight.

This opened the door for Crazy Britney, the newborn sister of White Thrash Britney and the elder Pop Star Britney. It all went downhill from there.

Her divorce proceedings went fully in favour of ex-husband Kevin Federline, she lost custody of her two children, she was charged with a hit-and-run and has been in and out of psychiatric care like a yo-yo.

At any one time there are up to thirty paparazzi following her screaming at each other to get out of their shots.

One video shows Spears sitting in her car while her friend goes to a coffee shop for her. She sits twiddling a string around her finger while a team of photographers, without any break in concentration, snap for four minutes straight. While being pursued

by the entourage she does a sharp u-turn. Several hours later the video has surfaced on celebrity blogger phenomenon Perez Hilton's blog with a headline branding her a 'reckless driver'. Should we be surprised that the girl has gone just a little bit crazy?

Spears herself has been quoted as saying:

"I see a bunch of photographers and I'm scared and I want to get out of the situation... They're coming up on the sides of the car which is a scary situation for me."

She has become trapped in a bubble of a media which has, itself, become trapped in a snowball effect of a constant search for more scandal.

Every day she seems to be getting increasingly downtrodden and her behavior more erratic.

More and more, it is beginning to seem that tabloid editors are looking for that one lucrative headline about the media's favorite pop princess: "Spears Killed in Car Smash".

That day does really not seem too far off.

## Singles of the month...

By Luc O Cinnseala



### I Thought it was Over - The Feeling

**T**he latest instalment in The Feeling's growing back catalogue sees the band reinvent their sound from 2006's bland debut album *Twelve Stops and Home*. They have stayed true to their orientation towards piano and electronic hooks but have livened up their sound tenfold to dramatic and welcomed results.

### Everyone Nose - N\*E\*R\*D

**E**veryone Nose is the first single from N\*E\*R\*D's forthcoming studio album *N.E.3.D.* A song about cocaine culture, it stands out for its hopping jazzy baseline with a trademark break that could only belong to this one group. Pharrell and Co. are back with attitude this Spring.



### Madge: new album

**W**atch out, Madonna is wrapping up her eleventh studio album, *Hard Candy*, set to be released on the 28th of April. It has been known that Madge received a huge contribution to the album from Justin Timberlake while Pharrell Williams left his mark on the track *Candy Store*. Other rumoured contributors include Kanye West and Felix Da Housecat.

The first single, *4 Minutes*, produced by Timbaland and featuring Justin Timberlake will be released at the end of March. Watch this space...

## Goldfrapp back to square one (and loving it)

By Luc O Cinnseala

**O**nce upon a time there was a lady called Alison Goldfrapp. Along with her friend, Will Gregory, she released two albums without any huge success. This lady decided to pick up the pace and kick her work hard with a dose of synthesisers and electronic hooks and soon took her place as a musical dominatrix with 2005's *Supernature*. The success of this album had given her a persona that was capable of reducing interviewers to tears.

Poor Allison was getting tired of being branded as a mean spirited bitch and decided that, perhaps, it would be better to keep her music more gorgeous than glamorous, simple than outrageous. The result is her newly released album, *Seventh Tree*.

Describing the opening track, *Clowns*, is a hard task. Few words exist that can come up the intense feeling of serenity that hits

you when listening to this song. The lyrics are often incomprehensible but this only adds to the mysterious beauty of this album's stunning introduction.

A&E, the lead single, from the album is airy and is certainly the most radio friendly of all songs and crops up seven tracks in, reassuring the listener that this is not another album where the second half is mere filler; it's far from it actually.

The album's surreal and earthy cover art just needs to be seen to understand what this album is about; an album closer to earthy nature and Goldfrapp's personal nature. The laid back feeling that accompanies every track shows that Alison could not be happier doing something she loves. This is ultimately what makes good music and what has given this album every second of its aural magnificence.



### Everyone is skinning up By Sadhbh Connor

**1**.4million E4 viewers became addicts in January 2007. That was way back when the first episode of *Skins* aired and it seems that not one audience member has been able to kill the craving for a fix since.

The second series has just begun and it appears more ambitious than the first. Its themes are heavier without separating too much from its usual format of carefree partying, drug taking and casual sex.

Although the programme has been accepted in the realm of uber-cool it is clear that this is big business for E4. The official website is updated frequently and strategically with unseen footage, diaries, blogs and podcasts to satisfy its internet-nurtured audience.

On one of the fansites, the question of whether anybody over the age of 25 watches the programme has been posed and it turns out that a number of 30, 40 and even 50 year olds find it as enthralling as the younger group. Every generation needs a defining, cult programme and it looks like we've found ours. As a comment on the official website said, 'Skins is like, the best.'



# Movies movies movies

## Festival flair

February saw the Dublin International Film Festival hit cinemas. So instead of the usual reviews, we thought we'd give you an in-depth look at what the festival had to offer for movie fans. Gary Fox reports on the prestigious festival which featured over 100 films in 10 days...

The 6th annual Jameson Dublin International Film festival has called it a wrap for another year. The festival opened with a star studded Irish premiere of *In Bruges* by Academy Award-winning writer/director Martin McDonagh. In attendance to add some star quality to the event were Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson.

Combining emerging cinema from countries such as Lebanon, Italy and Estonia, with movies with mainstream appeal, the festival offered something for all tastes.

Particularly popular were the free outdoor screenings of classics such as *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* at Smithfield Market and *The First Great Train Robbery* in Heuston Station.

Showing over 100 films in ten days at six locations around Dublin it was a hectic schedule for Irish film fans. The festival showcased some of the very best in cinematic work from all across the

globe; over 33 countries were represented at the festival.

Running from 15th to 24th February, it was strategically located in what was a packed couple of weeks for the Irish entertainment world. The Meteor Ireland Music Awards took place on February 15th along with the Irish Film and Television Awards (IFTAs), two days later on the 17th.

While it may not have the sunshine and glitz of the Cannes Film Festival, the Jameson Dublin International Festival has been drawing the crowds since its revival in 2003.

Also receiving its European premiere at the Festival was the latest offering from Irish super group, U2. *U2 3D* was filmed during the South American leg of the Vertigo Tour and couples 3D technology and 5.1 Surround Sound.

The Festival concluded with the Irish premiere of *Eden*, a film from the people behind the hit TV series *Pure Mule*.



Daniel Day-Lewis and Rebecca Miller arrive at the screening of *There Will Be Blood* on February 17th. Photo: Patrick Redmond

One of the most prestigious awards at the festival was scooped by *Waveriders*. An Irish documentary, directed by Joel Conroy, it explores the world of surfing in Ireland and Ireland's connection with the sport.

Grainne Humphries, director of the festival spoke to DIT News. When asked how she felt this year's festival went, she enthusiastically replied, "I am absolutely delighted with the festival this year, we had a great line up of films, wonderful guests and I think the audiences really responded to new additions like the library programme and outdoor screenings"

Speaking about the plans for next year's festival which are already underway, she said, "I have some ideas for 2009 - but none I can reveal at this stage."

By Gary Fox



As the director of the festival, Grainne Humphries, pointed out, one of the main goals of this year's edition has been the idea of exploring the huge diversity of world cinema over the past year and bringing works from first or second time directors to the great public.

Among the over 100 films shown during this sixth edition of the festival, we have also had the chance to get a little closer to what is better known as *The New Italian Cinema*.

Five fresh and innovative films already appreciated by the Italian audiences during the last year have been screened in Dublin. They all received warm welcomes and positive reviews from the Irish public.

The strong emotionalism and the contemporary character shown by young directors such as Daniele Lucchetti and his *My Brother is an only child* or Andrea Molaioli and his *The Girl by the Lake* are the main features of an Italian cinema captained by

## Parla l'Italiano?

Michelangelo Fellicetti adds international flavour in his interview with Italian movie producer, Gian Mario Feletti

the high-class director Giuseppe Tornatore and his pathos-full feature *The Un-*

known.

Another fascinating and topical title has been Salvatore Maira's *Valzer*, a satirical drama about different events taking place within a hotel in Turin during one day.

Human behaviors and deep emotions mix up with political comments and an extraordinary sense of irony.

DIT News met Valzer's producer Gian Mario Feletti after the screening at the Screen Cinema in Dublin last week and asked a few questions about the movie.

**Q. Where did the idea for Valzer come from?**

A. "Valzer has been written and directed by Salvatore Maira. It is an original idea by this amazing director. I've worked with him in the past on a totally different movie about 18th century Italian theatre. I'd define Valzer as an emotional bet, especially when you think that we managed to close the movie in the very last three days of shooting."

**Q. How long did it take to shoot the film?**

A. "It took us only three weeks to shoot the entire movie. The first week we worked with the actors as if in theatre and the other two weeks with the camera."

**Q. Valzer was shot in a continuous take. Is there any particular reason for that?**

A. "First of all it was a challenge from a technical and artistic point of view. In so doing we managed to keep the costs very low. Secondly, since the beginning our main task was to tell a one-and-a-half hour long story, which is also the exact duration of the film, of everyday life in which everything can happen and your life can radically change."

"Obviously when you shoot in a continuous take the actors and the troupe feel the pressure. The smallest mistake and you have to go back from the start. Two main cameramen and an assistant worked together and handed the camera to each other while shooting, like the airplane midair refueling procedure, if you know what I mean."





## DIT Waterpolo triumph in intervarsity final

Left to right  
TOP: Colin Broderick,  
Brian O'Dea, Conor  
O'Dea, Eoin Nolan,  
Thomas Foy, Jamie  
Fogarty, Robert Ricciardi.  
FRONT: Conor Sheridan (Coach),  
Stephen O'Brien  
(Captain), Ray Cranley,  
Graham Cullen,  
Josef Tonar. INSET:  
Eoin Doyle

By Finbarr O'Sullivan

The DIT Men's Waterpolo team celebrated victory in the Irish Intersvarsity Championships earlier this month. The Championships, which were held in Trinity College, pitted eight universities against each other.

DIT were in a group with Limerick, Galway and DCU with the winner and runner-up advancing to the semi-finals.

Before any matches were played DIT, DCU and Limerick all had three points as Galway's team failed to turn up and the sides were awarded 10-0 walkovers in their respective fixtures against Galway.

In their first game, DIT faced DCU. DCU did not have enough players to fulfil the match and DIT

were awarded another 10-0 walkover.

As Limerick beat DCU, the final group match between Limerick and DIT would decide who won the group. DIT triumphed 17-3 and won the group with 9 points. Limerick finished as runners-up with 6 points.

In the semi-finals DIT took on the hosts Trinity and after leading 7-2 at half-time, they sealed the game in the second half with the final score being 13-6.

Queens University beat Limerick in the other semi-final to set up a DIT and Queens final.

Inspired by coach Conor Sheridan, DIT went into the game with confidence but after trailing 4-3 and then leading 6-4 it was 6-6 at half time.

In the second half, DIT captain Stephen O'Brien equalised with 22 seconds to go to make it 9-9 and sent the game into two three-minute-halves of extra time.

After the first three minutes DIT had a lead of 11-9 and managed to hold on to win 11-10.

DIT's Eoin Nolan was voted Player of the Tournament for his outstanding displays in DIT's successful campaign.

Nolan is also the 2007 DIT Sportsperson of the Year.

DIT have come close in recent



DIT's Eoin Nolan (blue cap) received Player of the Tournament award at the waterpolo intersvarsities.

years, reaching the semi-finals in 2006 and 2007 and losing to Galway in extra-time in the 2005 final.

The DIT Women's Waterpolo team did not fair as well as the men, losing all three games in their group. They had finished as runners-up in the 2007 competition.

The next event for the Swim & Waterpolo Club is the Swimming and Lifesaving Intersvarsity Championships in Sligo IT on 7 and 8 March.

## THE SPANNER



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# DIT camogie inched out in dramatic cup final



By Cathal Foley

The DIT camogie team came agonisingly close to being crowned Purcell Cup champions after losing by a point to Queen's University in the final of the tournament at Pearse Stadium, Galway.

DIT opened up an early three point lead but their good work was undone by Queen's University forward Maria Jordan, scoring her first, and unfortunately not last, goal of the game.

The Ulster team dominated the majority of the first half, with DIT menace Jordan netting the second of her three goals. DIT,

however, were still very much in the contest, with Joeleene Horey, in particular, impressing, amassing 1-03 to leave the scoreboard reading 3-06 to 1-06 to the Northerners at the end of the first half.

Queens started strongly in the second half with points from Karen Gribben and a brace from Colette McSorley increasing their lead to 3-09 to 1-06.

DIT, however, kept faith, eating into the Ulster team's lead with scores from Siobhan McGrath and Joeleene Horey, who scored a goal apiece to reduce

the deficit to just four points as the game entered the final ten minutes.

With time running out, the Dublin ladies were handed a lifeline when Valerie Reaney popped up to net past the Queens' goalkeeper, making it a one point game in favour of the Ulster team.

DIT's brave fight back wasn't enough, however, as the referee called time on this rip-roaring encounter with the scoreboard – unfortunately from a DIT perspective – reading 4-11 to 4-10.

## Sailing team win Munster championship 2nd in UK race

By Conor Byrne

The Munster championship was organised by DIT on Cullaun Lake, Co. Clare over February 2nd and 3rd, where the team raced in the snow and the bitter cold.

Only eight of the top college teams were invited, including our greatest rivals; Trinity, UCC, CIT and UL. After 55 races, in two round leagues, the title was to come down to the final race between DIT (on 11 wins) and UCC (on 8 wins).

In the final race, DIT were commanding until the downwind leg when a penalty went against us, letting UCC into a 1, 2, 6 on the second-last leg. Byrne / McNally in 3rd position started inching over UCC's Simon Murray, who luffed letting DIT's O'Leary / Fenlon gain

room on the final mark. One UCC boat touched the mark, and the other UCC boat touched the boat of O'Leary / Herlihy, giving UCC two penalties and DIT the race and the title. Despite some close races, DIT2 were unfortunate to finish in 6th position.

DIT1 flew to the University of Reading in the UK over the weekend of February 23rd and 24th to compete in the "Reading Wetdream" event against 11 other teams. After being the only team to win every race over two leagues, the Brits were spooked

The final was against Oxford University, the prestigious sailing college whom we had thrashed the previous day. Oxford took the first race, and DIT the second. In the final race, DIT were winning with a 2, 3, 4 com-



bination until a penalty went against us. On the final leg, Byrne / McNally put the pressure on two Oxford boats and allowed O'Leary / Herlihy and O'Dowd / Corcoran scope to catch up to the line and cross in a winning 2, 3, 4 combination to win the event.

A whistle went, however, and an umpire gave what the captain of Oxford called 'a dubious penalty' against Byrne / McNally for coming out of a tack faster than they went in, giving DIT a losing 2, 3, 6 combination, after a shortened celebration we would have to be content with second place.

The next event for DIT is the National Intervarsities in Killybegs over the 6, 7, & 8th March.

# Hurling club round up - a busy year so far

The DIT Hurling Club has been very active recently on the fields of play with the Fitzgibbon Cup well under way.

Last term they were busy in the league with victory over UUJ and defeats to UCD and St. Pats which saw them exit the league. After the Christmas period preparations for the Fitzgibbon Cup went into overdrive while also partaking in the Kehoe Cup, a competition which DIT won in 2007.

In the Kehoe Cup DIT defeated Mayo and Kildare but fell to the old enemy Carlow in the semi-final a game in which we lost a number of key players to injury. This game was on a Sunday and on the following Wednesday DIT lined out to face a formidable and highly fancied NUIG side in Galway with seven Fitzgibbon debutants in the starting side.

The squad pulled together and the freshers acquitted themselves very well in what was a great game of hurling given the time of year and dug out to a draw from the jaws of the defeat with a last minute goal from Kilkenny's Willie O Dwyer.

This was a marvellous result given the amount of experienced personnel the side had lost to injury in the weeks leading up to the game.

They next faced a very talented CIT side in Grangegorman, an encounter in which we lost narrowly by two points leaving CIT top of the group and DIT in second position with NUIG being knocked out of the competition a major shock as they had contested the final of the competition the last two years.

The quarter final draw took us down to face WIT in Ballygunner, a game in which we were comprehensively beaten by a star studded and very physical WIT side.

### FRESHERS

The Freshers had a successful league campaign before losing to UL in the first round of the championship by the narrowest of margins in dismal conditions for hurling in Grangegorman.

This was particularly unlucky as a goal in the last minute snatched a victory from a very strong DIT freshers side which had been well prepared by Adrian Cummins, Micheal O'Keefe and Niall Kelly.

### INTERMEDIATE

The intermediate hurlers are still destined for success after a great two point victory over LIT recently in the All Ireland Quarter Final at Grangegorman. This is a very strong side backed by John Langan Murphy and Willie Cullen. The very best of luck to them in that competition.

**Paddy Breen**  
Chairman DIT Hurling Club



# Rugby team through to quarter final after bruiser in Carlow

DIT 29 - IT CARLOW 33

By Cathal Foley

**T**he DIT senior rugby team, despite losing to Carlow, have qualified into the quarter finals after finishing second in their group.

The Dublin students got off to the worst possible start, conceding an early converted try and penalty, leaving them facing an uphill struggle for the remainder of the match.

It was sixteen minutes into the first half before DIT registered their first score, thanks to a penalty from Barry McLaughlin.

In spite of some brave defence, it was Carlow who struck next with two more unconverted tries – stretching their lead to 20 points to 3.

Not to be deterred, DIT bounced back with a try of their own from Clement Thierry, who did well to touch down after snapping up a loose Carlow pass – reducing the score line

to 20 – 10.

DIT, however, entered half time on a sour note after scrum half Barry McLaughlin compounded Carlow's successful drop goal attempt by getting sin-binned.

With the score line reading 23 – 10 at the beginning of the second half, Carlow made the most of their one man advantage with a converted try to increase their lead to ten points.

DIT, however, would not lie down, with Mark Farrell, Mick McElroy and Cian Erraught leading the fight back with some excellent work.

The DIT students were rewarded for their persistence after Cian Erraught crashed over out wide after a powerful line-out maul.

With the tide turning in DIT's direction, Clement Thierry touched down for the second time after a well



DIT women's soccer team

worked back-line move. Barry McLaughlin added the conversion to give the Dublin students a faint glimmer of hope, after looking dead in the water fifteen minutes earlier.

With the score board reading 22 – 33, DIT reverted to their most potent weapon – the line-out maul. It proved a success for the second time when Ian Leonard burrowed over in the corner. Barry McLaughlin landed the acute conversion to reduce the Carlow lead to four points.

Unfortunately for DIT, it proved to be the last score of the game as time ran out on their spirited come back.

## Women's soccer team lose out to UCD

By Cathal Foley

**T**he DIT lady's soccer team found the final hurdle too high to overcome; losing 2-1 after extra time to UCD in the final of the Challenge Cup.

In a scrappy first half, both sides had periods of dominance, with UCD creating the more clear-cut chances.

DIT posed UCD some problems, with Dunne making some telling surges down the left flank.

As the game headed towards extra time in the second half, UCD looked to have snatched the result with a well taken goal.

DIT did not lose heart, however, and their perseverance was finally rewarded with a timely goal by A Flanagan, sending the game to extra time.

UCD looked the fitter team as the tempo slowed in extra time. With a penalty shoot-out looking a foregone conclusion, UCD caught DIT napping to cruelly snatch victory with a goal in the dying minutes.

## Sports round-up

- The DIT men's soccer B team are in the Division 2 final.
- 7 DIT Hockey players have been selected for the International College's Hockey team who will be competing in Prague early next month.
- DIT Pool player James McDonald has been selected for the Ire-

land team to compete at the student eight-ball home international in Glasgow on 18-19 of April.

• Upcoming intervarsities that DIT will be involved in include, Archery, swimming, Judo, Karate, Boxing, Athletics (cross country), Umbro Soccer Cup

• In the boxing intervarsity on 10th & 11th of February DIT won two gold medals (Luke Keeler 75kg

(scholarship student) and Colm Kavanagh 57kg.

• After a very successful year to date the Sailing club will travel to Reading shortly to compete in an international event as the only Irish team competing

• The annual Sports Awards will be held in Croke Park for the 3rd consecutive year on Thursday 3rd of April 2008.

## SIGERSON CUP

# DIT hold out for epic win over DCU

By Cathal Foley

**D**ublin senior forward Mark Vaughan registered seven points for DIT in yesterday's round two Sigerson Cup clash at Grangegorman.

The Kilmacud Crokes dead-ball specialist landed all his scores from frees in a game that was ultimately decided by Aidan Kilcoyne's goal with two minutes to go.

The Mayo forward took a pass from Shane Ryan jnr, sidestepped the goalkeeper and finished into the empty net. Vaughan had sent over

back-to-back frees with Conor Mortimer and Shane O'Rourke countering at the other end to tie the game with ten minutes gone.

The teams then traded two points each before well-taken scores from O'Rourke and Dick Clerkin, coupled with an injury-time score from Cathal Cregg, opened up a three-point lead for DCU at the break, 0-7 to 0-4.

DIT then put together a run of six unanswered points which culminated in a point from Meath senior forward

Cian Ward to go 0-10 to 0-7 in front midway through the half.

It was DCU's turn to rally this time, however, with Cregg, Brian Sheridan and Seamie Johnston sending over three quick points to tie the game with ten minutes to go.

But following a Vaughan free, Liam Fleming came up from defence to put DIT ahead by two with three minutes to go. And then after DCU had lost possession, Ryan then set up Kilcoyne to all but put the game beyond DCU's reach.





**DIT GAA**  
We look at the  
best of this month's  
GAA action



**WATERPOLO**  
Men's team victorious  
in intervarsity final  
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**Inside  
Sport**

**RIGHT:**  
Paul Brogan of  
DIT keeps his eye  
on the ball in the  
Sigerson cup  
quarter final  
against Tralee IT  
in Kerry on  
February 27th.  
DIT next take on  
Jordanstown in  
Carlow on  
March 7th.

The DIT men's senior footballers have made a little bit of history by making the semi final weekend for the first time in the Club's history. A 0-14 to 0-4 point win against Tralee IT in Kerry on Wednesday February 27th secured their passage to the weekend.

The furthest the college has progressed in the competition prior to this was back in 1999 with a team including Kerry's Darragh Ó Sé and Meath's Ollie Murphy reached the quarterfinals before going out to Queens.

This year's crew are now looking at the big prize. Having defeated UCC after extra time, a starstudded DCU side in Grangegorman and now Tralee away, confidence in the camp will be high.

However they will have to get over the bookies' pre-tournament favourites Jordanstown on Friday March 7th in Carlow if they are to progress to the final. Jordanstown have already accounted for Sligo IT and last year's champions Queens.

So all roads next week lead to Carlow, if you can lend your support on Friday please do.

**See inside for match report  
of DIT's epic 3 point win  
over DCU in round two**



## DIT footballers in Sigerson semi-final for first time

# DIT soccer win CUFL Division 2 title

**By Cathal Foley**

DIT are the new Division 2 Colleges and Universities Football League champions after a resounding win over the highly fancied Collaiste Stiofan Naofa.

The Cork side managed by Cork City director of coaching Liam Murphy were considered favourites for the game which was played in almost perfect conditions at the AFL complex in Coolock.

Both sides went into the final unbeaten this season so something was going to have to give.

The DIT team lost last years final on penalties and were determined not

to let this happen again

The opening exchanges of the match were fairly even but after about ten minutes DIT began to dominate. DIT had several good chances to score with Jason Brown and Conor Foley bringing out some good saves from the CSN keeper.

Man of the match Richie O'Farrell finally broke the deadlock in the 28th minute after he fired home from fifteen metres getting on the end of a Dan Downey through ball.

Six minutes later the same player put the game beyond CSN when he converted a penalty kick which was

awarded when O'Farrell was taken down in the box by the CSN centre back.

It followed a very similar move that led to the first goal. 2-0 at half time.

The second half resembled the first DIT created several chances without adding to the score.

With the game slipping away from them CSN threw on all their subs in the last ten minutes getting the upper hand and coming close on two occasions.

DIT then closed out the game, holding on for a 2-0 victory.

### CFAI CUP

Meanwhile, DIT Premier team are into the quarter-finals of the CFAI Umbro All Ireland cup after a great victory over IT Carlow in Carlow.

DIT opened the scoring with a 25 yard blockbuster from midfielder Ross Zambra. Carlow equalised soon after but a Mark O'Connor brace gave the visitors a commanding 3-1 lead.

Carlow pulled another goal back in the 80th minute but a goal from substitute Kyle Cawley restored the 2 goal lead.

Final score IT Carlow2; DIT 4